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## The BG News March 12, 2008

Bowling Green State University

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**Wednesday**

March 12, 2008  
Volume 101, Issue 116  
WWW.BGNEWS.COM

CAMPUS

## Community rallies against gender violence

Transcendence, a transgender support group, organized the rally to spread awareness | **Page 3**

NATION

## NY governor may resign after call-girl scandal

New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer felt the pressure to resign after being identified as a client of prostitution ring | **Page 7**

## Oil and gas hit record high

Drivers continue to pay an arm and a leg at the pump as prices hit a national high this week with an average of \$3.23 a gallon | **Page 7**

FORUM

## Residence halls are worth the experience

Columnist Levi Joseph Wonder explores the benefits of life in University-provided housing | **Page 4**

## Global warming: a convenient hoax

Columnist Sean Martin, armed with intelligence, combats Gore's "truth" with recent data on the arctic | **Page 4**

SPORTS

## Women's b-ball beats Kent in the quarterfinals

In the third contest against the Golden Flashes this year, the Falcons emerged victorious with a 85-57 win in Cleveland | **Page 9**

PEOPLE ON THE STREET

Do you separate your lights and darks when you do laundry?



**ROBERT KISABETH,**  
Junior, Sports Marketing

"Absolutely — gotta keep 'em fresh." | **Page 4**

WEATHER

**TODAY**  
Partly Cloudy  
High: 39, Low: 28

**TOMORROW**  
AM Ice  
High: 49, Low: 32



PHOTOS FROM WWW.SIXCHU

**NO MORE QUARTERS:** If the Office of Residence Life's proposal is approved, students living in residence halls will no longer have to pay each time they use washing machines.

# Change VS. Charge

## University proposes new policy for laundry facilities

Story by **Kristen Zens** | Reporter

Students may be able to use on-campus laundry facilities next year without worrying about having enough quarters to wash and dry their clothes.

The Office of Residence Life is proposing an upfront laundry fee of \$50 a semester for all students living on campus. The fee would replace the use of quarters to operate washers and dryers and allow students living on campus to access the machines at their convenience.

"Students will feel more at home," said Michael Griffel, Director of Residence Life. "It's paid for upfront so they don't have to worry."

For students like Thomas Naples, freshman, the upfront fee will alleviate going to the front desk of the Union every time he needs quarters.

"It'd just be more convenient," Naples said.

Currently, students pay \$1.25 to wash a load of clothes and around \$.75 to dry.

With the proposed program, students would have to do two loads of laundry a week in the University's 16-week-semester to break even.

According to Ryan Gardner, the \$50 fee is based on the rates other schools with the same



See **LAUNDRY** | **Page 2**

# Obama wins Mississippi, heads to Pennsylvania

By **David Esposito**  
The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Barack Obama coasted to victory in Mississippi's Democratic primary yesterday, latest in a string of racially polarized presidential contests across the Deep South and a final tune-up before next month's high-stakes race with Hillary Rodham Clinton in Pennsylvania.

Obama was winning roughly 90 percent of the black vote but only about one-quarter of the white vote, extending a pat-

tern that carried him to victory in earlier primaries in South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana.

His triumph seemed unlikely to shorten a Democratic marathon expected to last at least six more weeks — and possibly far longer — while Republicans and their nominee-in-waiting, Sen. John McCain, turn their attention to the fall campaign.

"Now we look forward to campaigning in Pennsylvania and around the country," Maggie

See **OBAMA** | **Page 2**

# Jerome, BGSU's sixth president, dies at 88

The BG News Staff

Former University President William T. Jerome III, who led the campus during the tension of the Vietnam War and Kent State shootings, died Monday. He was 88.

Jerome, the University's sixth president, served from 1963 to 1970. The number of students and faculty both doubled during his tenure, to 14,000 and 720 respectively. Nine master's degree programs, four doctoral programs, 11 new buildings, including the library that would eventually bear his name and the University's Firelands branch were also added during his presidency.

"It was a growing period, he hired more faculty members," recalled Wallace Pretzer, an English professor who joined



TAKEN FROM 1970 KEY YEARBOOK  
**WILLIAM T. JEROME III:** Former University president; served from 1963-1970.

the faculty in 1963, along with his wife.

He left the University open in the days following the Kent

State shootings in May 1970. BGSU was the only state university in Ohio to do so.

But he also supported the campus protests happening at the time, such as candlelight marches.

"To those student leaders who came forth ... to make this march such a memorable and significant occasion, I wish to express my personal gratitude and appreciation," he said in a statement in May 1970.

Jerome was born in Yonkers, N.Y. He attended Yale University Law School before leaving to serve in the army during World War II.

He worked at Syracuse University before joining the University. In 1970 he left to be the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Florida International University.

# Forensics debate team wins national competition

## University team defeats 50 other teams

By **Hannah Sparling**  
Reporter

The Falcon Forensics Speech and Debate team will leave today to compete internationally after winning a national competition last week.

The University team defeated 50 other teams at the National Comprehensive Tournament, which was held in St. Louis, Mo., and, for the first time ever, won the title. Two years ago they tied for first with Carson-Newman University.

There were 35 events at the NCT for which students prepared either public address speeches or interpretations of poetry or drama. The students then performed in front of judges who scored and ranked them, determining whether they would advance to the next round.

There were four rounds in the competition: the initial round, the quarter finals (top 24), the semi finals (top 12) and the finals (top six). BGSU made it to the quarter finals in 27 of the 35 events.

Senior Kenny Rogers won one individual national title and another national title in a partner event with senior teammate Jennifer Cole. Freshman Rahul Gaha also won two national titles.

"Our students really stepped it up in finals," said Paul Alday, director of Forensics and Debate at the University.

Three members of the team, Rogers, Michelle Baker, and Kayla Combs are leaving tonight for the International Tournament.

**"We've been able to do extremely well in some very tough competitions."**

Michelle Baker | Freshman

This is the first time since the 1920s that BGSU has been able to compete on the international level, but the team expects to do well.

"Kenny, Michelle and Kayla are very good competitors," said Katie Hodgdon, a freshman member of the team. "I think they'll do pretty well."

"We're expecting to hold our own," Rogers said.

Going into the season, the team thought they would have a problem with lack of experience because many of the members are freshmen, senior Michelle Baker said.

"We didn't expect to do nearly as well as we have," Baker said. "We've been able to do extremely well in some very tough competitions."

"We've had a really successful year," Rogers said. "Everyone on the team has really pulled their weight."

While the team has had a very successful year, winning competitions is not their main goal.

"It's mostly about loving to speak and perfecting the art of performing," Rogers said.

"The nice thing about our team is that our goal and focus is not always the trophy," Baker said. "Our goal has always been education and growth. All these successes are just icing on the cake."

# Kappa Alpha Psi accused of hazing

By **Ryan Sullivan**  
Reporter

Members of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity were referred to student discipline and could face criminal charges after police were called to investigate a hazing incident at an off-campus apartment on Feb. 20.

According to a police report, Greek Life director Ron Binder witnessed four bare-chested recruits being hit by other fraternity members.

During talks with police and Binder at the scene, the four students "did not say much" when asked about the incident, according to the report.

Binder told both parties — the students and the fraternity — to avoid contact with one another. Unless charges are filed, the students' names and positions in the fraternity may not be released.

Bowling Green City Prosecutor Matt Reger said yesterday he is deciding whether to press charges on the students.

The student discipline process is being used against the students as well as the fraternity because of the potentially dangerous circumstances the students were placed in, Associate Dean of Students Michael Ginsburg said.

The University will penalize fraternity members, he said. Ginsburg would not reveal which penalties they face.

"By my own definition, these people were in a very poor situation," he said, adding the organization has been cooperative during the University's investigation.

"A mistake was made but we are not going to let this stop us," Kappa Alpha Psi president Jordan Archer said.

Archer refused further comment on the incident.

The University's student handbook defines hazing as "any mental or physical requirement, request or obligation placed upon any person that could cause discomfort, pain, fright, disgrace, injury or which is personally degrading to which violates any federal, state, local law or University policy."

Hazing isn't just a violation of the student handbook. It also violates the Ohio Revised Code.

If someone is found guilty of a hazing — a misdemeanor offense — they face up to 30 days in jail and up to \$250 in fines, Reger said.

Because the fraternity violated the University's policies, they could lose funding, be put on probation, be suspended or lose their registration on campus.

Even if the students are not

See **HAZING** | **Page 2**



MATT ROURKE | AP PHOTO

**MISSISSIPPI MASTER:** Presidential candidate Barack Obama wins another primary.



## BLOTTER MONDAY

10:22 P.M.

A student reported her iPod was stolen sometime during spring break. The student said she put the iPod in her pillowcase before leaving and said the only people who had access to the room were R.A.s and her roommate, who she said had been back for 10 hours before she returned.

**ONLINE:** Go to [www.bgnews.com](http://www.bgnews.com) for the complete blotter list.

check us out online:  
[www.bgnews.com](http://www.bgnews.com)

## LAUNDRY

From Page 1

program are charging.

Washington State University and Stanford University are among the schools that have a "just like home" laundry program. Their fees range between \$40 and \$60, he said.

Residence Life considered card readers for BG1 cards and pin pads so students could enter their identification numbers before deciding on an upfront fee.

## HAZING

From Page 1

criminally charged, they could still face individual punishments by the University.

Causing pain, sleep deprivation, forcing a recruit to drink large quantities of alcohol or forcing a person to commit a crime as a requirement for group membership are considered forms of hazing, Ginsburg said.

There are some gray areas, Ginsburg said. For example, scavenger hunts can have educational value but some are "just pointless and meant to embarrass students."

While there are usually three

to four incidents reported per year, Ginsburg said other organizations such as bands or club sports are also susceptible to violations.

"In my own opinion, more hazing occurs in other organizations," Ginsburg said. "[There are] more stopgaps with things like Greek Affairs."

A stopgap, Ginsburg said, is something put in place by the

**"In my own opinion, more hazing occurs in other organizations. [There are] more stopgaps with things like Greek Affairs."**

Michael Ginsburg | Associate Dean of Students

University in order to prevent an incident, such as hazing, from occurring.

Pi Kappa Phi president Mike Masterson said the University does a good job of educating fraternities about what hazing is and how to avoid it.

"[Greek Affairs] has a program where we go over what hazing is," Masterson said. "[Within the fraternity] we have

a risk management chair and a meeting with the national branch too."

While there are some rituals to go through to join Pi Kappa Phi, they are used to teach the history and values of the fraternity, he said.

The Pi Kappa Phi risk management chair, a warden and fraternity chaplain are always around during rituals to enforce the fraternity's zero tolerance policy on hazing, he said.

The University offers a tool to Greek and other organizations to ensure they comply with the hazing policy on its Web site. The page offers advice on hazing prevention and a quiz to ensure understanding of the material.

## HAZING HISTORY

Some recent incidents of hazing and alleged incidents at the University include:

- October 2006: The women's gymnastics team is forced to withdraw from a meet after the University finds them to be "psychologically" hazing freshman teammates.
- November 2004: The University hands sanctions down to seven players on the hockey team after a picture comes out featuring a player who appears unconscious with racial slurs and profanity written on his body.

The fee was decided on because pin pads and card readers require the purchase of expensive equipment and maintenance, Griffel said. Also, by eliminating the vending process the University avoids the collecting, auditing and security of coins, he said.

"It's the least expensive and most efficient way," Griffel said.

Griffel hopes the upfront fee will encourage more students to take advantage of the laundry facilities available on campus.

Right now, 30 percent of students living on campus take their

laundry home because they live so close, Gardner said.

Even though these students don't use the facilities, the fee will still be charged to their bursar account. Everyone living on campus will have to pay the fee regardless of if they plan on using the facilities or not.

"Students will certainly save money if they utilize the machines," Griffel said. "That's true with any service."

But the program may not be beneficial to students like Amanda Powell, sophomore, who only does her laundry once

a month.

"It would be a waste of money for me, personally," said Powell, who usually only spends \$5 a month on her laundry.

But while Powell isn't using the facilities, there are concerns that students living off campus may try to use them instead without paying the fee, Griffel said.

"Realistically," Gardner said, "We don't see [off-campus student use] being as big of an issue."

In most residence halls like McDonald, facilities are located on ped-protected floors rather

than being centrally located.

Residence life is looking at creating a guest program for off-campus students. If the guest program is enacted, students living off campus can have unlimited use of laundry facilities for an additional \$50.

Because the new program will increase the demand of machines, Residence Life hopes to purchase more energy efficient washers with the money that was once allotted to the cost of vending.

The program is intended to be implemented next fall if it is

approved this May.

Approval depends on whether or not current infrastructure can handle new machines. Sewer drains and gas and water lines must also be looked at to ensure they can handle an influx of machines.

"If we can't do it well, we aren't going to do it," Griffel said. "The whole point is good service."

Students who have questions or concerns regarding the proposed laundry fee can contact their hall council member or the Resident Student Association to voice their opinions.

# Furniture chain Ikea to open new store near Cincinnati

By Lisa Cornwell  
The Associated Press

WEST CHESTER, Ohio — Like many other business owners in this booming Cincinnati suburb, Rhonda Sternberg has had the opening of Ikea's first Ohio store today circled on her calendar for a long time.

And not just because she is looking forward to shopping at the Swedish retailer known for its low-price functional home furnishings. Sternberg figures Ikea's almost cult-like following and store openings that draw people from hundreds of miles also will be a boost to her business.

"I think it will increase everyone's business because some Ikea shoppers come for whole weekends," said Sternberg, who hopes Ikea customers will stop by her NVogue medical spa for a manicure or facial.

The owner of Nyla's Flowers, also expects to benefit from Ikea's presence. "People may come for Ikea, but they'll also be looking at what else we have to

**"People may come for Ikea, but ... be looking at what else we have to offer."**

Nyla Kramer | Store Owner

offer," Nyla Kramer said.

Opening ceremonies for the two-story, 344,000-square-foot store about the size of six football fields will include the raising of the Swedish, U.S. and Ohio flags, roaming stilt-walkers and a traditional Swedish log-sawing ceremony intended to bring good luck — something government officials, business owners and residents say Ikea already has brought with its decision to locate here.

The store is Ikea's 274th worldwide and its 34th in the U.S.

"I expect Ikea will help West Chester become the economic epicenter of the Cincinnati-Dayton corridor," said George Lang, president of the West Chester Township

Board of Trustees.

The store, with its trademark bright blue-and-yellow exterior, is just off Interstate 75 at an intersection that was mostly farmland a decade ago. Township officials say the busy intersection has spurred more than \$1.5 billion in investment and 17,000 jobs.

The area near it has become the center for a growing number of retail, manufacturing, food and entertainment sites and corporate offices, including AK Steel Holding Corp.'s new headquarters.

Ikea is bringing 400 jobs to the township of more than 60,000 residents, and Lang is confident it will enhance the area's reputation as a retail destination.

Officials in the Detroit suburb of Canton Township, where Ikea opened a store in June 2006, say that has been their experience.

"It's brought a lot of people into our community that I think wouldn't normally have come here," said Kathleen Salla, economic development coordinator for the Michigan township of about 85,000 residents.



ALEX BRANDON | AP PHOTO

**CONSTANT CAMPAIGNING:** Democratic presidential hopeful, Barack Obama, shakes hands after stopping at Buck's Restaurant for breakfast yesterday in Greenville, Miss. Obama now has 1,368 pledged delegates to Clinton's 1,226 and 211 superdelegates to Clinton's 247.

## OBAMA

From Page 1

Williams, Clinton's campaign manager, said in a written statement that congratulated Obama on his victory.

"I'm confident that once we get a nominee, the party is going to be unified," Obama said as he collected his victory.

But in a race growing more contentious, he took a swipe at the way his rival's campaign has conducted itself.

"We've been very measured in terms of how we talk about Senator Clinton," he said.

"I've been careful to say that I think Senator Clinton is a capable person and that should she win the nomination, obviously, I would support her. I'm not sure we've been getting that same approach from the Clinton campaign," he said in on CNN.

Obama picked up at least six Mississippi delegates to the Democratic National Convention, with 27 more to be awarded. He hoped for a win sizable enough to erase most if

not all of Clinton's 11-delegate gain from last week, when she won three primaries.

Obama began the night with 1,579 delegates, to 1,473 for Clinton. It takes 2,025 to win the nomination.

Neither of the two rivals appears able to win enough delegates through primaries and caucuses to prevail in their historic race for the nomination, a development that has elevated the importance of nearly 800 elected officials and party leaders who will attend next summer's national convention as unelected superdelegates.

Obama leads Clinton among pledged delegates, 1,368-1,226 in The Associated Press count, while the former first lady has an advantage among superdelegates, 247-211.

There was little suspense about the Mississippi outcome, and both Clinton and Obama spent part of their day campaigning in Pennsylvania, which has 158 delegates at stake in a primary on April 22.

The volatile issue of race has been a constant presence in the historic Democratic cam-

paign, and it resurfaced during the day in the form of comments by Geraldine Ferraro, the 1984 Democratic vice presidential candidate and a Clinton supporter.

"If Obama was a white man, he would not be in this position. And if he was a woman (of any color) he would not be in this position. He happens to be very lucky to be who he is. And the country is caught up in the concept," she said in an interview with the Daily Breeze of Torrance, Calif., that was published last Friday.

Clinton expressed disagreement with Ferraro's comments, and said, "It's regrettable that any of our supporters — on both sides, because we both have this experience — say things that kind of veer off into the personal."

Obama called Ferraro's remarks "patently absurd."

Blacks, who have supported Obama in overwhelming numbers in earlier primaries, accounted for roughly half the ballots cast in Mississippi, according to interviews with voters leaving polling places.

### OFFICE OF CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

## STUDENT ORGANIZATION AWARDS

Now Available for the 2008 Gregory T. DeCrane  
Applauding Excellence Banquet

Please take a moment and recognize the accomplishments of student organizations and student organization members by nominating outstanding groups/individuals for the Office of Campus Activities Student Organization Awards.

Applications are due **Wednesday, March 12, 2008 by 5pm** and can be found by visiting the Office of Campus Activities, 401 BTSU, or [www.bgsu.edu/getinvolved/page12036.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/getinvolved/page12036.html).

The Student Organization Awards recognize:

- Advisor of the Year
- Citizenship Program of the Year
- Cross-Cultural Program of the Year
- Emerging Male Leader of the Year
- Emerging Female Leader of the Year
- Honorary Organization of the Year
- Most Innovative Program of the Year
- Most Outstanding Leader of the Year
- Most Outstanding Student Organization

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Now Available for the 2008 Gregory T. DeCrane  
Applauding Excellence Banquet

The Office of the Dean of Students encourages students to apply for the **Hazel H. Smith Scholarship** and the **SICSIC Scholarship**. The Smith Scholarship is available to full-time off-campus/commuter students who have excelled academically. The SICSIC Scholarship awards either a junior or senior that has excelled academically, while displaying outstanding qualities of leadership and initiative. These scholarships are due to the **Office of the Dean of Students, 301 BTSU, by 5pm Friday, March 14, 2008.**

All applications and further descriptions of these awards are available by visiting the Office of Campus Activities or [www.bgsu.edu/getinvolved/page11645.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/getinvolved/page11645.html).

For additional information, please contact the Office of Campus Activities at 419-372-2343.

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Bowling Green State University

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## GET A LIFE

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Some events taken from events.bgsu.edu

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Becki Smith - Box Assemblages

The Little Gallery

3:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Education Mock Interviews

202 Union - Lenhart Grand Ballroom

5:30 - 9 p.m.

Brain Awareness Day Lecture Series

206 Union - Theater

8 p.m.

FAS: Jeff Halsey, double bass

Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical

Arts Center

9 - 11 p.m.

Wednesdays in the Pub: Name That Tune

101 Union - Black Swamp Pub

3,648-student  
pillow fight  
needed to break  
world record

Next month students can fight for a world record — with their pillows.

The University Activities Organization announced yesterday it will co-sponsor a pillow fight on April 23 at 4 p.m. in the University's intramural fields.

That number the student organization has plastered all over campus — 3,648 — indicates the number of students necessary to break a Guinness record, UAO co-director Kajavius Wilson said.

The group, which is working with Sigma Phi Epsilon and Game Game Night to sponsor the event, decided to hold the event just before exam week to help students destress, Wilson said.

"We're looking for something to relieve the campus and try to bring an environment that's like campus fest that gets the students together no matter who it is and just have a good time," he said.

## Campus community tries to increase transgender support

By Steve Kunkler  
Reporter

Members of the University community rallied outside of the Union to protest the recent increase in violence against transgender individuals.

The Rally Against Gender Violence and Hate was put together by members of Transcendence, a transgender support, visibility, education and civil rights group on campus.

Individuals held up signs that read "My Sister, My Brother, My Friend NO HATE" and pictures of people who had been killed or committed suicide because of the intolerance transgendered people face.

Pictures of transgender hate crime victims were also displayed. Cameron McWilliams, a child who committed suicide at age 10 after dealing with gender identity confusion, was among the victims.

Joelle Ruby Ryan, founder

of Transcendence, said the Bowling Green community and the country as a whole need to realize the bigotry that leads to violence against particular groups in society.

Ryan also said one to two people in the United States are killed every month for being transgendered, with increasing numbers in recent months.

The victims of these violent acts can also include young adults or teens.

"It's important people know 15 and 17-year-olds are being murdered for simply being who they are," Ryan said.

Senior Joe Aufenthie, president of Transcendence, said people are too committed to their identities based on what is socially acceptable. The rally will help people in the area become more aware of the problems that face transgender individuals on a daily basis, he said.



ENOCH WU / THE BG NEWS

**A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT:** Campus minister David Ordonica and other demonstrators hold signs in protest of violence against transgendered people. The Rally Against Gender Violence and Hate was put together by members of Transcendence, a transgender support group.

Students grill campus police chief  
Wiegand with 'Tough Questions'By Kristen Vasas  
Reporter

It's not every day that students are given the opportunity to question a police officer, but at this year's third "Tough Questions" session, students were given the chance.

The jobs and inner workings of the campus police department were thoroughly discussed by both Police Chief Jim Wiegand and students at the session created by M. Neil Browne, Ph.D.

Among an assortment of different topics, the question of whether the campus police are seen as actual police officers took precedent.

Wiegand responded by stressing the fact that the campus police department is seen by many officials as a professional



**Police Chief Jim Wiegand**  
Participated in 'Tough Questions' session yesterday

police department.

According to Wiegand, the officers have the right to stop any student on campus if they see something suspicious. They also are able to ask for student IDs and issue citations.

"A lot of students — especially incoming ones — think that our officers are just security officers," Wiegand said. "When they take your liberty away, you realize they're real cops."

Wiegand also mentioned that all officers brought into the department are put through a 14-week field-training program



**M. Neil Browne, Ph.D.**  
Creator of 'Tough Questions' sessions

in order to associate them with the BGSU campus and culture.

And though some students felt the campus police wouldn't offer the same opportunities as a city department, Wiegand said that it was actually the opposite.

"I have one officer who has worked with me for six or seven years and at one time had applied for a job in suburban Toledo," Wiegand said. "He was the first one chosen for the job, but in the end he decided to

See WIEGAND | Page 6

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Fall  
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2008

Registration begins for:

Graduate Students	March 17
Non-Degree Graduate Students	March 19
Seniors	March 25
Juniors	April 1
Sophomores	April 8
Freshmen	April 14
Guest Students	April 18

## Don't miss out! See your advisor now!

Pre-Major Advising and UPAS	101 University Hall	372-8943
Arts & Sciences	205 Administration Building	372-2015
Business Administration	371 Business Administration Building	372-2747
Education & Human Development	365 Education Building	372-7372
Health & Human Services	102 Health Center	372-8242
Musical Arts	1031 Moore Musical Arts Building	372-2181
Technology	102 Technology Building	372-7581
Firelands	101 West Building	372-0676

Register using **My.BGSU.edu**

To find your exact registration day and time, go to the  
Office of Registration and Records website at

[www.bgsu.edu/offices/registrar](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/registrar)
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Phone 419-372-4444

## Special notice to BGSU Faculty, Staff and Students

!  
EMERGENCY  
COMMUNICATIONS  
TEST

TODAY

## TEST ONLY

BGSU will perform a campus-wide Emergency Communications Test Wednesday, March 12.

This test is part of continuing efforts to refine and enhance campus safety, security and communications policies and procedures. Various methods to be tested include:

- > AlertBG text messaging
- > PC backgrounds in computer laboratories
- > Web site
- > Email system
- > 37-ALERT and 372-SNOW phone lines
- > Other communications vehicles

Please complete the online survey:

<http://survey.bgsu.edu/surveys/IR/emcommtest/emcommtest.htm>
**BGSU.**



## PEOPLE ON THE STREET

Do you separate your lights and darks when you do laundry?



"Absolutely not."  
**JOE LAUCLAN**,  
Senior, Economics



"I separate my lights, my darks and my pinks."  
**SHANNON RAWSKI**,  
Junior, Psychology



"Yes, because I like the colors of my clothes the way they are."  
**LAURA YINGLING**,  
Senior, Developmental Disabilities and Habilitation



"If I'm at home and not having to pay per load, I do."  
**ERIC YOUNG**,  
Junior, AYA Education

**VISIT US AT BGNEWS.COM**  
Have your own take on today's People On The Street? Or a suggestion for a question? Give us your feedback at bgnews.com.

## Dorm life, now that's the life for me



**LEVI JOSEPH WONDER**  
COLUMNIST

"There are plenty of friendships, arguments, good times, bad times, considerate people and people who like to blare their music loudly all day long (read: me)."

Every now and then, I notice some of the more glaring faults of living in a residence hall here on campus. People puking in the hallways and all over the rest-room floor, thunderous music beginning the minute quiet hours end, irritating roommate habits, an infuriating amount of room-to-room drama and the fact that all of us live in oversized sardine can-style rooms.

I can fully understand why so many college students are eager to move out of the "juvenile" residence halls and to rent out houses or apartments to live in. But at the same time, I'm supremely glad the University mandates students to stay in the dorms for their first two years of classes.

No, I'm not crazy (or maybe I am! Hmmm...), but I believe that my fellow freshmen and I are fortunate to be required to spend our first years in the residence halls here on campus.

Living in a residence hall encourages (and requires) stu-

dents to adopt new social ideas and outlooks on other people; skills which they will need to be more socially accepting and tolerant later in life. After all, there are over 300 million people in this country, all with unique (and sometimes controversial) lifestyles, hobbies, activities, addictions, cravings, careers, work ethics and styles. It's imperative to be socially accepting and tolerant in today's ever-evolving progressive society.

After all, we're not living in the idealistic 1950s anymore — which was a fundamentally flawed decade anyway.

Frankly, I'm actually quite happy to live in a room comparable in size to the backseat of a 1993 Nissan Quest minivan (my vehicle of choice). By cramming my roommate and me into such a space, we have been forced to observe and analyze each other's lifestyle and habits, all while living together in said room.

Many questions are asked, a few arguments are started and more than a handful of embarrassing/infuriating events occur (like me getting locked out of my room and ending up sleeping on the carpet in front of my door).

But the end justifies the means: an increased tolerance of others, a greater understanding

of other people's lifestyles and activities and a heightened sense of what is socially acceptable (and of what is not) are all traits I hope to gain by the conclusion of this academic year.

And based on some of the more extreme social happenings I've witnessed on my floor and in my room (ranging from hygiene product pranks to intense peer-to-peer drama), I think that I will be a mastermind of residence hall life by the end of this semester!

OK, not really. But I will not deny that my time spent in a residence hall has helped me to become a better person.

This is precisely why I am nettled when my peers complain about the residence life policy which mandates freshmen to spend their first two years on campus.

I will not deny that living off-campus in a house or apartment also gives people the opportunity to become more open-minded and socially accepting, but it's the type of tightly-knit social interaction in a residence hall which allows its residents to better themselves.

Over in my glorious Kohl Hall home, there are plenty of friendships, arguments, good times, bad times, considerate people

and people who like to blare their music loudly all day long (read: me).

Sound familiar? That's because it's just like real life! Living in a residence hall allows students to witness and experience all of the drama and shenanigans of real life, all in a convenient tuna-can sized package!

I'm just joking about that last part, of course. Once you get used to the compact size of the typical dorm room, things don't seem so cramped.

After all, when thinking about life in a residence hall and looking back at life with Mom, Dad, and your siblings, do you really want to go back? Sure, I liked life at home, and I do go back every now and then, but you can't beat life in a residence hall.

You've got loud people, louder music, fights, shout-outs, annoying pranks, public restrooms and more drama than 100 cheerleaders crammed into a room all vying for one spot left on the team.

Man, why wouldn't anyone want to live in a residence hall?

But seriously, residence halls are great places to develop new social skills and to improve tolerance towards others. It's not so bad here on campus, and that's one of the reasons why I'll be spending my next year in totally bodacious Kohl Hall.

Have fun with your private bathrooms and peace and quiet, all you upperclassmen.

— Respond to Levi at [theneus@bgnews.com](mailto:theneus@bgnews.com).

## FORUM VIDEO BLOG: BACK IN ACTION



We're back on YouTube with a brand new video!

Take a look as Levi Joseph Wonder asks if anybody should vote for a candidate just because they agree with the candidate on one issue.

Check it out at [www.youtube.com/TheBGNews](http://www.youtube.com/TheBGNews).

Stay tuned for more videos from Forum columnists, and let us know if you film your own response!

## So many voters, so little votes



**SEAN LUTZMANN**  
COLUMNIST

A few surprising (and not so surprising) events were in store for us over Spring Break, other than the 2 feet of snow in Cincinnati and similar amounts all over Ohio, that is.

Political enthusiasts (I refuse to use the term "junkies") nationwide had their eyes glued to their television sets to find out whether the primary elections would finally be decided by delegate-rich Ohio and Texas on the day some news networks had called "Super Tuesday II" or "Junior Tuesday."

The ensuing victories for Hillary Clinton in the Democratic primaries and John McCain's triumph, saw McCain's candidacy at long last cross the finish line to become the GOP's nominee (which really wasn't so much of a surprise in light of his overwhelming delegate lead over his opponent Mike Huckabee). We also saw the once-thought-to-be-doomed Clinton campaign's astounding comeback, thanks to the help of older voters in Ohio, Texas and of course the great state of Rhode Island.

As expected, Ohio saw a record turnout as voters came out strong for the Democratic primary, with young people in particular seeing a spike in voting activity. According to exit polling data as reported by the Pew Charitable Trusts, almost half a million young people (479,418) ages 17-29 took the time to participate in either party's primary race in Ohio. More than 348,000 of them made up about 16 percent

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Elections offer chance to rebuild U.S.'s standing

The Bush administration never fails to contradict itself.

Bush continues to assert that the U.S. government does not torture. Yet, when presented with H.R. 2082, the Intelligence Authorization bill, which prevents the Central Intelligence Agency and other U.S. agents from using waterboarding, sexual humiliation, dogs and other techniques that amount to torture and ill-treatment, he vetoes it! Thus the Bush administration continues in its reckless disregard for human rights and even basic human dignity.

I ask you, what sort of message are we sending to the international community? The United States that has claimed itself the watchdog of the world, the defenders of freedom and justice, continues to detain people in Guantanamo Bay without charges, continues to torture and continues to disregard human life.

As president of BGSU's chapter of Amnesty International and a fellow human being I am outraged! On the other hand, I am proud of our Congress for passing H.R. 2082. I am proud that they have rejected the ridiculous arguments that torture is a legitimate tool of interrogation, when in fact torture is not only immoral but it is counterproductive and illegal by international standards.

I implore students to consider this an issue in the upcoming election. Let's make torture and the immediate closing of Guantanamo Bay a priority in 2008. Hold Obama, Clinton, McCain and all the other candidates accountable for the atrocities this administration has committed under the "War on Terror."

This is an extremely important election for international human rights as well as the United States reputation in the international community.

— Corey Stevens,  
Junior, Sociology

## ManBearPig devours global warming threat



**SEAN MARTIN**  
COLUMNIST

"Let's face it, the idea of global warming has proven itself to be as useful as a tissue paper condom. Once it undergoes pressure it falls apart, leaving one feeling stupid for supporting, and buying into it."

ManBearPig will kill us all!

When I first heard this I thought, "Oh Noes!!!! We are all doomed!"

If you haven't figured it out yet, I'm talking about global warming, the mythical cousin of Bigfoot and Chupachabra.

In case you were too busy swilling down Al Gore's Kool-Aid, many new developments have happened in this great debate.

Debate is an inappropriate descriptor. By debate I mean fascist, psychotic fearmongering that is being countered by rational facts.

First, the poles (not the people, the places) are actually gaining ice. The Arctic regained all of the ice it lost over the past year. In Antarctica, many places

have the largest amount of sea ice on record. Looks like things are going to be OK.

Is it possible that the melt is a lot of BS hype, filmed by people who went to the poles in the summer when there is always melting?

Those poor little polar bears that drink Coke and drown in "An Inconvenient Truth" are increasing in number. I won't even go into the fact that they can swim nearly 100 miles.

They are now so numerous that folks in Greenland have to have bear patrols, and close schools when the bears come into town.

What can explain this? Well,

if global warming is at fault, then global warming is a good thing since the polar bears are increasing. Also, these kind, cuddly creatures are now being able to interact with more children, and that's just plain nice.

Or, there is more sea ice in the Arctic, which is forcing the polar bears to find food on land since the sea is choked with ice.

The most interesting fact in recent scientific discovery is something that Hadley, NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, the University of Alabama at Huntsville and the Royal Statistical Society have all documented.

The average global temperature from January 2007 to 2008 has decreased by .595 degrees Centigrade. In fact, this documented change is the biggest change (high or low) ever recorded in history.

Despite my very shoddy science and math skills .595 C is about 1.07 degrees Fahrenheit. Now from my recollection, this is more than enough to negate most of the 20th century warming based

upon what Al Gore told me.

Maybe this is a random anomaly, like many of you out there are going to say, but you do have to agree this is on hell of a change. If we can have anomalies this big, then we could easily have lots of smaller ones.

Instead of reason, we have taken the word of weathermen who can't even 100 percent predict next week's weather. Too bad that the "climate model" only works when one doesn't factor solar heavy output and clouds.

I think the thing that provides us with heat (the sun) and the material that is a more effective and more numerous greenhouse gas (water vapor) are very important in affecting our climate.

I could go on about other parts of science, but a thing most won't care to do is look at the money trail.

When Al Gore goes from about \$3 million in assets in 2000, to nearly \$35 million in 2008 and runs Capricorn Investment Group LLC, a "green" hedge fund, methinks he is in this for the money.

If this were such an emergency, why is he charging \$175,000 to speak? So in order to hear the prophet speak, we need to have money.

Well instead of seeing him in person, I can watch his 2.5-

See **MARTIN** | Page 5

### SPEAK YOUR MIND

Got something you want to say about an opinion column or news story? Here's how to get in touch with us for letters to the editor:

- E-mail us at [theneus@bgnews.com](mailto:theneus@bgnews.com).
- Drop a note into our new comment box at the Union Information Center.
- Call us at 419-372-6966.
- Come to our newsroom in 210 West Hall.

Be sure to read the submission guidelines at the bottom of this page.

## THE BG NEWS

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## The BG News Submission Policy

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

are generally to be fewer than 300 words. These are usually in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area.

**GUEST COLUMNS** are generally longer pieces between 400 and 700 words. These are usually also in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area. Two submissions per month maximum.

### POLICIES:

Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space on the Opinion Page permits. Additional Letters to the Editor or Guest Columns may be published online. Name, year and phone number should be included for verification purposes. Personal attacks, unverified information or anonymous submissions will not be printed.

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as an attachment to [theneus@bgnews.com](mailto:theneus@bgnews.com) with the subject line marked "Letter to the Editor" or "Guest Column." All submissions are subject to review and editing for length and clarity before printing. The editor may change the headlines to submitted columns and letters at his or her discretion.

Opinion columns do not necessarily reflect the view of The BG News.



## LUZTMANN

From Page 4

of all the Democrats who voted (up from just 9 percent of the overall primary vote in 2004). The remaining 130,571 made up 13 percent of the Republican vote, about the same percentage of which turned out for the last presidential primary in 2000, though a decrease in net votes overall of about 51,108.

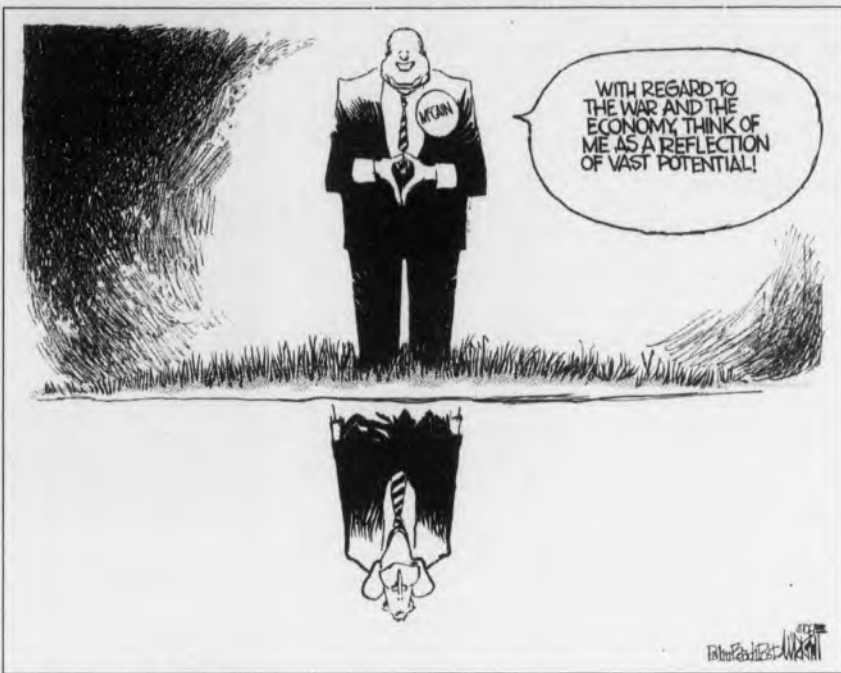
Without a doubt, improvement has been made in voter participation amongst the younger generation, but when all was said and done, just 25 percent of all eligible young people turned out to vote (while an estimated 40 percent of those older than 30 did), and while it is still 10 percent higher than in 2000, it also still means that 75 percent of us did not even bother.

Some of that can be contributed to the really bad weather, the obvious reason of spring break, missed deadlines for registration and even the fact that there are probably a lot of informed citizens out there who wish to remain registered Independents, being affiliated with no party at all, as it so often appears to them that neither of the two major ones represent their views. You're definitely not alone, as according to RasmussenReports.com, a little over a quarter of the electorate remains unaffiliated.

The problem with this, however, is by leaving the parties to the traditional base that always turns out to vote in primary elections, you allow the gap between you and the party platform on the issues to widen.

So the next time you get a chance to influence in which direction one of the major political Parties in this country goes, vote early and let your voice be heard.

— Respond to Sean at  
theneus@bgnews.com.



## MARTIN

From Page 4

hour-long MacBook advertisement.

Then, I am encouraged to use CFLs; the stupid little twisty lights that are going to save energy. Too bad they contain mercury.

Yes, the same mercury that people freak-out about in fish and water are OK when they are contained in a very fragile object kids are always around.

In some states, the bulbs have to be disposed of with hazardous materials, and if one happens to break on your carpet, you are advised to cut that contaminated piece out.

Explain to me how we can save the world by using hazardous waste? If this is the case, you can keep your mercury, I'll keep my oil.

Let's face it, the idea of global warming has proven itself to be as useful as a tissue paper condom. Once it undergoes pressure it falls apart, leaving one feeling stupid for supporting and buying into it.

They might as well try and get Billy Mays to sell ManBearPig. Maybe Oxy-Clean can reduce CO2 since that stuff is really cool.

Now this discourse has devolved into everything being global warming's fault.

If it's too hot, cold, windy, sunny, cloudy, zombies attack-

ing or just plain nice out, you can be sure global warming had something to do with it.

I think the founder of the Weather Channel has it right when he thinks Al Gore should be brought up on charges of fraud.

— Respond to Sean at  
theneus@bgnews.com.

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3	2		9	1			4
4	6					2	3
	1		3				
5		2	6				
		8					7
			7				9
					1	6	
			4	9	5	7	
			5	6	3		

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9	1	6	5	2	8	7	5	2
6	5	8	2	5	2	9	7	1
2	9	2	5	1	7	8	5	6
1	5	7	8	6	9	2	2	5
5	6	9	7	2	5	2	1	8
5	2	1	2	8	5	6	9	7
7	8	2	1	9	6	5	2	5



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# Turnitin.com scrutinizes plagiarism

By Taylor Friedman  
U-Wire

LOS ANGELES — Since its creation in 1996, Turnitin.com, an anti-plagiarism site, has been continually scrutinized by students and teachers questioning its legality and practicality, culminating with a lawsuit that ended in January.

USC began using Turnitin in conjunction with Blackboard in August 2006, paying \$30,000 for the program in order to prevent plagiarism, which remains the "most frequently violated academic code," said Raquel Torres-Retana, the director of the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards.

SIACS reported 179 cases of plagiarism in the 2005-2006 academic year and 166 cases from 2006-2007.

"USC's inclusion of Turnitin came about as a demand from faculty in the writing programs as a way to level the playing field. The crux of it all was that fac-

**"The crux of it all was that faculty members were receiving complaints about students plagiarizing from...online services and other students' papers to plagiarize."**

Otto Khera | Interim Director of the Center for Scholarly Technology

ulty members were receiving complaints about students plagiarizing from other students, who used online services and other students' papers to plagiarize," said Otto Khera, the interim director of the Center for Scholarly Technology.

Turnitin primarily detects unoriginal work. After a student submits a paper through Turnitin, their professor receives an originality report showing how much of the student's work is borrowed from other sources. It also lets students peer review each other's work and allows professors to give more detailed feedback.

The site's growing database

is its selling point. The more sources it has access to, the better the odds of catching plagiarism. The site partners with 8,500 institutions in 103 countries and receives 125,000 papers a day.

Despite its intentions, however, Turnitin has been a source of controversy among high school and college students who claim Turnitin is profiting off students without fair compensation.

In 2006, two high school students from McLean High School in Virginia and two students from an Arizona high school challenged Turnitin, arguing it violated their intellectual property rights by incorporating their submitted work into its

database of billions of sources, including public domain materials, manuscripts and other students' work.

But the Virginia judge handling the case dismissed it without a jury trial, granting a summary judgment in Turnitin's favor.

Only months out of the year-long lawsuit, John Barrie, Ph.D. the creator of Turnitin, remains convinced his service is "100 percent legal."

"We got legal opinion 10 years beforehand saying that we are in compliance with the law. We did the research beforehand. The last thing we wanted to do was make a business only to find out it was illegal," he said.

Daniel M. Klerman, a professor of law and history at the USC Gould School of Law and an expert on intellectual property rights and Internet law, said students are implicitly giving permission to the site to store their work by knowingly and willingly using its services.



ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

**CREATING AWARENESS:** Senior Joe Aufenthien and grad student Joel Ryan demonstrate violence against transgendered people outside the student union.

## RALLY

From Page 3

"They should think outside the Bowling Green bubble and realize that people are dying because of gender differences and that if they are gender variant their lives are at risk as well," Aufenthien said.

Another goal for protesters was to attempt to remove a stigma and help society be more accepting of transgendered people.

Members of Transcendence were joined by others from the University and local community who support the cause of stopping violence against

transgendered people.

Supporters from outside the group included Henry Koch, a Bowling Green resident, and David Odricka, a campus minister at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, who both want to see the bigotry transgendered individuals face on a daily basis stopped.

Just because a person doesn't agree with the way a person lives doesn't mean that person should have to put up with violence against them, Odricka said.

"I'm here to be a conservative Christian witness to the fact that we love LGBT people and stand against violence of any kind against them," he said.

## WIEGAND

From Page 1

stay here."

According to Wiegand, the officer felt the technology used by the campus police was similar to the city police. He also mentioned that the pay was relatively similar.

Wiegand also noted that many officers stick with the campus police due to safety issues.

"The only time I've ever been concerned for my safety is when

a guy had a gun pointed at my head," he said. "I wasn't sure if he was going to pull the trigger. Clearly, he didn't."

In light of the recent attacks on college campuses, Wiegand also addressed ways to stay safe if a crisis were ever to occur on campus.

According to the police chief, the safest way to avoid injury is to have a plan of action ahead of time.

"You must be prepared for the unthinkable," he said. "If I walk into this room with a gun and you all duck, I can do whatever

I want to you."

Instead, Wiegand suggested throwing anything within reach at the shooter, including water bottles and pop cans. He also noted that if confronted by the shooter, it is important to fight for your life.

Senior Caleb Lohr, a resident adviser working in Offenbauer, thought the discussion surrounding safety issues on campus was the most important issue discussed at the event.

"If I were in that situation, I would do anything to protect myself," Lohr said. "I think

his suggestions were all effective and they are definitely things I'd consider if put in that situation."

Browne, who is in charge of managing the events, was pleased with the discussion and hoped the next discussion, which will include President Sidney Ribeau, would be just as successful.

"These people are elected to run this school for the students," Browne said. "This gives (students) the chance to ask the tough questions of the people they pay to look after them."

## Student takes odd pet to campus

By Leslie Brown  
U-Wire

MISSOULA, Mont. — Geddy Tarbell, a University of Montana student, rarely takes Crikket to campus with him. When he does, she sleeps in a removable pouch in his breast pocket.

A shrill yippy sound erupts from the pocket as Tarbell tries to coax the marsupial out of the fleece bag.

The nocturnal animal doesn't appreciate the disturbance. Tarbell sighs and begins peeling an orange.

When she is awake and ready to play, she moves quickly, he says.

"If we set her down, she's hard to catch."

In the past, she's snuck out of her cage at night, and they found her in the morning, sleeping in a discarded shoe, Tarbell says.

The flying marsupial known as a sugar glider is not the typical Missoula pet. Some residents in the area opt to spend \$200 for this tiny animal, which looks a bit like a flying squirrel.

Originally from Tasmania, New Guinea, Australia and Indonesia, sugar gliders are now making homes around the nation.

Even though they are relatively easy to care for, sugar

gliders require more attention than more popular small animals like hamsters.

They eat protein (crickets will suffice), fresh vegetables and fruit. In their natural habitat, sugar gliders eat sap from eucalyptus and gum trees. Their love for sugary sap awarded them their name.

Although they're attracted to sweets, these 5-inch creatures are capable of taking down a bird.

When their bodies are fully extended, a strip of extra skin between their front and back legs allows them to glide 50 meters, roughly half the length of a football field.

## Quick class for NYU students

By Marc Beja  
U-Wire

NEW YORK — When Wagner professor Will Carlin sat down to plan a 20-week project management course, there was one catch — he had just two days to teach all the material.

This past winter, NYU tested an intensive program that offered courses that normally last an entire semester condensed into four weeks.

After a positive response, the university has decided to offer similar courses this May through the Gallatin School of Individualized Study; Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development; School of Continuing and Professional Studies; and the Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

**"If I were to try to lecture for nine hours straight, it would be boring."**

Will Carlin | Professor

Despite the fact that intensive courses only meet for a few weeks, the number of hours spent in class is about the same as a normal semester.

Students will just need to process the information more quickly.

In Carlin's case, his graduate course on project management meets only twice, for nine hours each time.

Because of the shortened schedule, Carlin has decided to abandon the idea of simply lecturing for the entire session

and will now try to offer more hands-on activities and student interaction, talking for up to 20 minutes at a time before breaking into smaller group projects.

"If I were to try to lecture for nine hours straight, it would be boring," Carlin said.

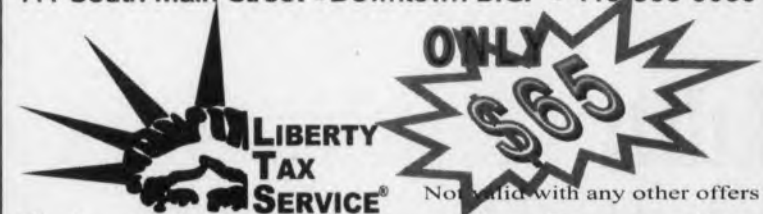
"But by breaking it up with group projects, it blazes by. The class goes by unbelievably quickly."

Steinhardt professor Maura Gouck will teach a graduate-level English education course, called "The English Teacher as Reflective Practitioner," that will meet for 12 sessions in three weeks as opposed to 14 sessions in 14 weeks if it were a regular course.

"It's not a huge difference," Gouck explained. "The difference is the intensity of it — the time to process the information."

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# Pressure growing for Gov. Spitzer to resign

By Michael Gormley  
The Associated Press

ALBANY — With pressure mounting to resign yesterday over a call-girl scandal, Gov. Eliot Spitzer found himself with few friends and lots of powerful enemies, many of whom regard him as a sanctimonious bully who got what was coming to him.

Republicans began talking impeachment, and few, if any, fellow Democrats were willing to defend him. A death watch of sorts began at the state Capitol, where whispers of "What have you heard?" echoed through nearly every hallway of the ornate, 109-year-old building.

While Spitzer and his family remained secluded in their Fifth Avenue apartment, insiders said the governor was still trying to decide how to proceed. Options included quitting as early as yesterday afternoon, or waiting to use resignation as a bargaining chip with federal prosecutors to avoid indictment.

Democrats privately floated another option, telling The Associated Press that Spitzer was considering what was almost unthinkable immediately after Monday's bombshell apology: hanging on.

"If the public is fine, he'll stay," said a Democrat who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject.

Still, Spitzer's enemies were emboldened, and some of his friends went from shock to outrage.

"Particularly because of the reform platform on which he was elected governor, his ability to govern the state of New York and execute his duties as governor have been irreparably damaged," said Citizens Union, a good-government group that supported the crusading attorney general for governor in 2006 and provided critical support in his effort to reform Albany. "It is our strong belief that it is now impossible for him to fulfill his responsibilities as governor. Accordingly, Citizens Union urges him to resign as governor."

The scandal erupted Monday, when allegations surfaced that



**TALKING IT OVER:** Charles O'Byrne, chief of staff to New York Lt. Gov. David Paterson right, speaks with Assembly member Aileen Gunther, D-Monticelli, in the flag room at the state Capitol in Albany, N.Y.

Spitzer, a 48-year-old married man with three teenage daughters, spent thousands of dollars on a call girl named Kristen at a Washington hotel on the night before Valentine's Day. The case started when banks noticed frequent cash transfers from several accounts and filed suspicious activity reports with the Internal Revenue Service, a law enforcement official told the AP. The accounts were traced back to Spitzer, prompting public corruption investigators to open an inquiry.

The investigation also found evidence that Spitzer was a repeat customer with the Emperors Club VIP, a high-end call-girl service, the official said. In court papers, Spitzer was identified only as "Client 9," according to another law enforcement official who also spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is still going on.

The governor has not been charged, and prosecutors would not comment on the case. A Spitzer spokesman said the governor has retained a large New York City law firm.

In Albany, Democratic Lt. Gov. David Paterson, who would become governor if Spitzer resigned, was talking to legislative leaders about a possible transition.

On Wall Street, where Spitzer built his reputation as a crusader against shady practices and overly generous compensation, cheers and laughter erupted Monday from the trading floor when news broke of his potential ruin.

Many in the financial industry had long complained that the man known as "Mr. Clean" and the "Sheriff of Wall Street" was abusive and insulting, that he went after them with holier-than-thou zeal, and that he was just trying to make headlines and advance his political career.

"The irony and the hypocrisy is almost too good to be true," said Bryn Dolan, a fundraiser who works with many Wall Street employees. "If he had any shame, he would've already resigned."

Reporters, government workers and the public milled around the state Capitol on yesterday, waiting for any developments. News vans lined up around the building, and camera operators sat next to their tripods on the front lawn waiting for something to happen.

The official Democratic line was to give Spitzer time to decide.

"On every level — the human level, the governmental level — this is not the time to speculate and guess at the outcome," said Democratic state Assemblyman Richard Brodsky. "There's too much at stake."

But privately, several Democrats in the Legislature and in the administration said resignation appeared inevitable.

"He's weighing the rest of his life," one Democratic official said sadly.

Meanwhile, the Republicans Spitzer fought with for a year struck harder.

"The trust of the people has been violated and we've become a laughingstock," said state Sen. Martin Golden.

## Study shows STDs becoming more prevalent among teenage girls

By Lindsey Tanner  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — At least one in four teenage girls nationwide has a sexually transmitted disease, or more than 3 million teens, according to the first study of its kind in this age group.

A virus that causes cervical cancer is by far the most common sexually transmitted infection in teen girls aged 14 to 19, while the highest overall prevalence is among black girls — nearly half the blacks studied had at least one STD. That rate compared with 20 percent among both whites and Mexican-American teens, the study from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found.

About half of the girls acknowledged ever having sex; among them, the rate was 40 percent. While some teens define sex as only intercourse, other types of intimate behavior including oral sex can spread some infections.

For many, the numbers likely seem "overwhelming because you're talking about nearly half of the sexually experienced teens at any one time having evidence of an STD," said Dr.

**"High STD rates among young women, particularly African-American young women, are clear signs that we must continue to develop ways to reach those most at risk."**

Dr. John Douglas | Director of CDC's division of STD prevention

Margaret Blythe, an adolescent medicine specialist at Indiana University School of Medicine and head of the American Academy of Pediatrics' committee on adolescence.

But the study highlights what many doctors who treat teens see every day, Blythe said.

Dr. John Douglas, director of the CDC's division of STD prevention, said the results are the first to examine the combined national prevalence of common sexually transmitted diseases among adolescent girls. He said the data, from 2003-04, likely reflect current rates of infection.

"High STD rates among young women, particularly African-American young women, are clear signs that we must continue developing ways to reach those most at risk," Douglas said.

The CDC's Dr. Kevin Fenton said given that STDs can cause infertility and cervical cancer in women, "screening, vaccination and other prevention strategies for sexually active women are among our highest public health priorities."

The study by CDC researcher Dr. Sara Forhan is an analysis of nationally representative data on 838 girls who participated in a 2003-04 government health survey. Teens were tested for four infections: human papillomavirus, or HPV, which can cause cervical cancer and affected 18 percent of girls studied; chlamydia, which affected 4 percent; trichomoniasis, 2.5 percent; and herpes simplex virus, 2 percent.

Blythe said the results are similar to previous studies examining rates of those diseases individually.

## National gas prices hit record high

By John Wilen  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The cost of filling up the family car climbed to a record high yesterday, adding to the challenges consumers already face with falling home values and rising food prices.

Gas prices at the pump rose overnight to a record national average of \$3.2272 a gallon, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. That's a tad higher than the previous record of \$3.2265, set last May.

Soaring gas prices worsen the financial plight of consumers already suffering through a downturn in the housing market that has sharply reduced home prices in many markets and limited Americans' ability to tap home equity for spending. Food prices are also on the rise, partly due to rising fuel costs.

"I used to think three bucks a

**"I used to think three bucks a gallon was all I'd pay, but I keep filling up"**

Joe Gowans | Car Driver

gallon was all I'd pay, but I keep filling up," said Joe Gowans while gassing his Acura SUV in San Francisco one recent afternoon. "You have to use it."

A year ago, rising demand and a string of refinery outages had raised concerns about supplies. Now, the record price of crude oil is the culprit, propelling gas higher although supplies are at 15-year highs.

Yesterday, light sweet crude for April delivery surged to a new trading record of \$109.72 on the New York Mercantile Exchange before retreating after the Energy Department and

International Energy Agency cut crude consumption forecasts for this year. Futures settled 85 cents higher at \$108.75 a barrel, a new record.

Where gas and oil go from here is anybody's guess. Many analysts expect prices to moderate, while others predict oil could keep rising to \$120 a barrel, or higher. And with demand for gas expected to rise as warm weather arrives, analysts say pump prices could spike as high as \$3.75 a gallon, regardless of what happens with oil prices. The Energy Department yesterday raised its forecast of how high prices will rise this spring by a dime to \$3.50 a gallon.

"I've got to say, if they ever go up to \$3.50, that would be the point where I'd feel angry," said Alex Magby, a Morrisville, Pa., resident who was filling up his tank near his New Jersey restaurant job one recent afternoon. "I'd feel cheated at that point."



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# Clinton denounces the negative remarks made by her fundraiser

By Ann Sanner  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton said yesterday she disagrees with Geraldine Ferraro, one of her fundraisers and the 1984 vice presidential candidate, for suggesting that Barack Obama only achieved his status in the presidential race because he's black.

In a brief interview with The Associated Press, Clinton was questioned about Ferraro's remarks. The Obama campaign has called on the New York senator to denounce them.

Ferraro told the Daily Breeze of Torrance, Calif.: "If Obama was a white man, he would not be in this position. And if he was a woman [of any color] he would not be in this position. He happens to be very lucky to be who he is. And the country is caught up in the concept."



**Geraldine Ferraro**  
Her remarks have been denounced by both candidates

The newspaper published the interview last Friday.

Clinton said, "I do not agree with that," and later added, "It's regrettable that any of our supporters — on both sides, because we both have this experience — say things that kind of veer off into the personal."

"We ought to keep this on the issues. There are differences between us" on approaches to health care, energy, experience.

Ferraro is a former New York congresswoman and was Walter Mondale's running mate when he was the Democratic presidential nominee in 1984. She has endorsed Clinton and raised

money for her campaign.

Obama called Ferraro's comments "patently absurd."

"I don't think Geraldine Ferraro's comments have any place in our politics or in the Democratic Party. They are divisive. I think anybody who understands the history of this country knows they are patently absurd," he told the Allentown Morning Call. "And I would expect that the same way those comments don't have a place in my campaign they shouldn't have a place in Senator Clinton's either."

Obama senior adviser David Axelrod said Ferraro should be removed from her position with the Clinton campaign because of her comments.

"The bottom line is this, when you wink and nod at offensive statements, you're really sending a signal to your supporters that anything goes," Axelrod said in a conference call with

reporters yesterday.

"There's no other way to send a serious signal that you want to police the tone of this campaign," he added. "And if you don't do those things then you are simply adding to the growing compendium of evidence that you really are encouraging that."

Axelrod said Clinton has encountered problems because people view her as a "divisive and polarizing force."

"The best way to address those concerns is to not allow divisiveness and negativity to flourish among your supporters," he said. "And this is an opportunity for her to address that."

Jan Schakowsky, an Obama supporter and Illinois congresswoman, said Democrats should not tear each other down, and instead focus on defeating John McCain, the Republican nominee-in-waiting.

# Endeavour shuttle launches into space, beginning 16-day mission

By Marcia Dunn  
The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Shuttle Endeavour and a crew of seven blasted into orbit yesterday on what was to be the longest space station mission ever, a 16-day voyage to build a gangly robot and add a new room that will serve as a closet for a future lab.

The space shuttle roared from its seaside pad at 2:28 a.m., lighting up the sky for miles around as it took off on a multinational flight involving Canada and Japan.

It was a rare treat: The last time NASA launched a shuttle at nighttime was in 2006. Only about a quarter of shuttle flights have begun in darkness.

"Good luck and Godspeed, and we'll see you back here in 16 days," launch director Mike Leinbach radioed to the astronauts right before liftoff.

"Banzai," replied Endeavour's commander, Dominic Gorie, using a Japanese exclamation of joy. "God truly has blessed us with a beautiful night here, Mike, to launch, so let's light 'em up and give 'em a show."

They did. The shuttle took flight with a flash of light, giving a peach-yellow glow to the low clouds just offshore before disappearing into the darkness.

Gorie and his crew face a daunting job once they reach the international space station late tonight. The astronauts will perform five spacewalks, the most ever planned during a shuttle visit.

The launching site was jammed with Canadians and Japanese representing two of the major partners in the international space station. The Canadian Space Agency supplied Dextre, the two-armed robot that was hitching a ride aboard Endeavour, while the Japanese Space Agency sent up the first part of its massive Kibo lab, a storage compart-



MARTA LAVANDIER | AP PHOTO

**BLASTING OFF:** Space shuttle Endeavour lifts off from pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

ment for experiments, tools and spare parts.

Also on hand for the liftoff was a 19-member congressional delegation led by Rep. Nick Lampson, D-Texas, whose district includes Johnson Space Center in Houston. He is pushing for increased NASA funding.

For the first time since space station construction began nearly 10 years ago, all five major partners were about to own a piece of the orbiting real estate. The launch of the first section of Kibo, or Hope, finally propelled Japan into the space station action.

"With this flight I believe that we finally became a real partner of the [space station] project, not just one of the members on the list, after 20 some years of effort in the project," said Keiji Tachikawa, head of the Japanese Space agency.

Work on the space station project began in the mid-1980s, with preliminary design work for Kibo (pronounced KEE-boh) starting in 1990.

# Experienced Navy admiral resigns after alleged conflict with Bush administration

By Robert Burns  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Navy admiral in charge of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan announced yesterday that he is resigning over press reports portraying him as opposed to President Bush's Iran policy.

Adm. William J. Fallon, one of the most experienced officers in the U.S. military, said the reports were wrong but had become a distraction hampering his efforts in the Middle East. Fallon's area of responsibility includes Iran and stretches from Central Asia across the Middle East to the Horn of Africa.

"I don't believe there have ever been any differences about the objectives of our policy in the Central Command area of responsibility," Fallon said, and

he regretted "the simple perception that there is." He was in Iraq when he made the statement.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates told a Pentagon news conference that he accepted Fallon's request to resign and retire from the Navy, agreeing that the Iran issue had become a distraction. But Gates said repeatedly that he believed talk of Fallon opposing Bush on Iran was mistaken.

"I don't think that there really were differences at all," Gates said, adding that Fallon was not pressured to leave.

"He told me that, quote, 'The current embarrassing situation, public perception of differences between my views and administration policy, and the distraction this causes from the mission make this the right thing to do,' unquote," Gates told reporters.



CHRIS O'MEARA | AP PHOTO

**AGREE TO DISAGREE:** President Bush shakes hands with head of the U.S. Central command, Navy Admiral William J. Fallon before a speech to coalition forces.

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## SIDELINES



## SWIMMING

**Carriaga earns MAC academic honors**

BG senior swimmer Michael Carriaga was named to the 2008 Swimming and Diving All-Academic Team yesterday by the Mid-American Conference. In addition to swimming, Carriaga has a 3.5 GPA and majors in psychology.

## NFL FOOTBALL

**Lerner talks about 2008, mainly Savage extension**

Browns owner Al Lerner talks about the recent success of his team. His praise goes to his general manager Phil Savage who will soon receive a contract extension.

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## ONLINE

**The BG News Sports Blog**

Log on to The BG News Sports Blog for live updates during all of BG's MAC Tournament games this week. <http://www.bgnewssports.blogspot.com>

## SCHEDULE

## TODAY

**Men's basketball**

MAC Tournament Quarterfinals, vs. Toledo, 5:30 p.m.

**Baseball**

at Cincinnati; 4 p.m.

## OUR CALL

**Today in Sports History**

**1987**—David Robinson scores 50 points in a NCAA basketball game.  
**1972**—NHL legend Gordie Howe retires after 26 seasons.  
**1908**—The Montreal Wanderers sweep the Winnipeg Maple Leafs for the Stanley Cup.  
**1903**—The New York Highlanders (Yankees) approved as members of the American League.

## The List

There are some real dead-eye shooters in the NBA. Today, we list five guys who can drain threes in bunches.

- 1. Michael Redd:** His shot from beyond the arc often looks effortless.
- 2. Peja Stojakovic:** He's won multiple Three-Point Contests.
- 3. Dirk Nowitzki:** We wish he'd just be a man and play in the post, but still, the guy can flat out stroke.
- 4. Ray Allen:** Ray-Ray's been called the best pure three-point shooter in today's NBA by some folks.
- 5. Damon Jones:** The self-proclaimed "best shooter in the world." Even if he's not, he's still entertaining to watch when he gets the ball.

FALCONS 85 | FLASHES 57

# Business as usual



BERNIE AGUIAR | THE BG NEWS

**WITH AUTHORITY:** Kate Achter goes in for a lay up against Kent State's Ellie Shields (40) for two of her nine points. Achter also dished out 11 assists. The Falcons continued their brilliance in the MAC Tournament with a 85-57 win over the Golden Flashes. BG has now won 13 straight MAC Tournament games and made a strong statement in their first tournament game since losing five of their top six scorers from last season's NCAA Sweet 16 appearance.

## Falcons keep tourney streak alive in rout

By Chris Voloschuk  
Sports Editor

CLEVELAND — As the defending Mid-American Conference champions, the BG women's basketball team wanted to come out and make a statement in last night's quarterfinal match up with Kent State at the Quicken Loans Arena.

The statement was emphatic — starting early on and ballooning in the second half. BG ran away with an 85-57 win in front of 1,149 fans.

The game was won decisively on the strength of BG's play at both ends of the floor.

"We talk about this time of the year that defense and rebounding wins championships," said BG coach Curt Miller.

The Falcons out-rebounded Kent 45-33 and forced them into 21 turnovers.

And they weren't too bad on the offensive side either, knifing through Kent's zone time and time again. Four players finished in double figures.

Despite giving up a height advantage to the Flashes in the post, sophomore center Tara Breske and freshman forward Crystal Murdaugh played very tough.

Breske was especially effective. She had 14 points and eight rebounds by halftime, which led all scorers. By the time the final whistle blew in the second half, she finished with 16 and 11 to go along with three blocks and four steals. Murdaugh finished with seven points.

"Offensively, Tara got us off to a great



Jennifer Uhl

Came off the bench with 15 points and six rebounds for BG.

See **FALCONS** | Page 10

## Breske's dominance gives Falcons all they need against big posts



BRIAN MARKS | DAILY KENT STATER

**IN YOUR FACE:** Jen Uhl (24) and Tara Breske (30) close off all passing lanes against a Kent player last night in Cleveland.

By Bill Bordewick  
Assistant Sports Editor

The tone of last night's game was set early and it was set by Tara Breske.

The sophomore forward paced the Falcons in the first half with 14 points and eight rebounds in helping build a 24-point halftime margin.

In the first seven minutes of the game alone, Breske accounted for seven points, two steals, one block and one rebound.



**Tara Breske**  
Sophomore post finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds.

"Offensively, Tara [Breske] got us off to a great start," said BG coach Curt Miller. "I think our first half was the difference."

The BG difference-maker was definitely the performance of Breske and Kent State seemed powerless to stop her.

Breske credited her play to being able to find weaknesses in Kent State's defensive attack on the night.

"We just had to find the gaps in the zone, we had to keep finding the gaps and cutting into the holes," she said.

Breske finished the game with 16 points and 11 rebounds in the 85-57 Falcons victory last night.

But she did not just stop with the offensive end; she was also a

See **BRESKE** | Page 10

## SCHEDULE

## YESTERDAY

**BG 85**, Kent State 57  
 Miami 65, Western Michigan 60  
 Toledo 65, Ball State 60  
 Ohio 76, Eastern Michigan 62

## TODAY (men)

EMU vs. Ball State 12:30 p.m.  
 Central Michigan vs. NIU 3 p.m.  
 Toledo vs. **BG** 5:30 p.m.  
 Miami vs. Buffalo 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY (women)

Miami vs. Toledo 12 p.m.  
**BG** vs. Ohio 2:30 p.m.

## Rival Rockets await men in tourney

By Colin Wilson  
Reporter

The BG men's basketball team will try to extend its season today.

Although they've already won more games than expected, the Falcons would like to advance past the first round for the first time since 2005, their last winning season.

The first round opponent is No. 8 seed Toledo. The Rockets were nearly run out of Anderson Arena Feb. 10 but rallied in the second half to make the game close. BG went on a run late in the second half to come away with a 69-58 win.

The Rockets are 1-17 outside of city limits so the Falcons have an advantage there. But with just four wins away from their own arena, no one is dubbing BG a road warrior.

The Falcons have been knocked out on the tournament's first day in their past



ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

**STEPPING IT UP:** Chris Knight will get his first taste of the postseason today as he and the Falcons take on Toledo in the MAC Tournament. Knight, a red-shirt freshman averaged 10.7 points and seven rebounds per game this season.

two tries. Before that, they were 4-0 in the opening round.

Beating nationally-ranked Kent State was great for BG, but since then it's lost two straight by convincing margins. The Falcons lost by 46 to Buffalo and never came close in a 17-point loss to Miami Sunday.

Toledo on the other hand has won two straight, including its first road win Sunday in overtime over Central Michigan.

The game begins at 5:30 p.m. at Quicken Loans Arena in the beautiful city of Cleveland.

The winner faces top-seeded Kent State tomorrow at 7 p.m.

## Injury doesn't slow down Yao's celebrity in China

By Eddie Pells  
The Associated Press

On the day Yao Ming was lost for the season, the headline in China's state-run English-language newspaper read "Olympic Dream Could Fade with Yao's Foot Injury."

So far, doctors don't quite see it that way.

Neither do advertisers.

The sky-high billboards that dot Beijing's skyline with Yao's likeness haven't gone anywhere. Despite the stress fracture in his left foot, an injury that will cause him to miss the rest of the NBA season, Yao's endorsement contracts remain very much intact leading to the Beijing Games.

In fact, the injury may have generated even more of a buzz in a country that boasts an estimated 300 million basketball fans, almost all viewing the 7-



ANDY WONG | AP PHOTO

**CHINA'S SON:** Yao Ming's fame and fortune doesn't mean as much as the hope he brings to his native country, China.

foot-6 center for the Houston Rockets as their No. 1 national sports star.

"I think media scrutiny and fan interest regarding Yao's

See **YAO** | Page 10





**BUILDING REPUTATIONS:** Romeo Crennel and Phil Savage have changed attitudes in Cleveland. Crennel received an extension and Savage could be seeing one too.

## Lerner says Savage extension is likely

By Tom Withers  
The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Randy Lerner wolfed down the last bites of lunch in the Browns' cafeteria, where the owner shared a table with former quarterback Bernie Kosar, before heading up to his office overlooking practice fields now buried in snow.

It's a relatively quiet time in the NFL, those weeks between the frenetic first days of free agency and April's college draft.

In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press yesterday, the ever-energized Lerner spent nearly an hour candidly discussing the Browns' dramatic 2007 turnaround, an impending contract extension for general manager Phil Savage, coach Romeo Crennel's calming influence and the resurgence of Aston Villa, the English soccer team he bought in 2006.

Only once did Lerner duck a question. Asked to handicap the Derek Anderson vs. Brady Quinn quarterback derby, a daily topic of conversation among Cleveland fans, Lerner was noncommittal.

"I'm not a coach and I don't have any of the required skills to give an informed opinion," he said with a laugh. "Like any fan, I've got a lot to say, but I wouldn't stick my two cents into that one — for any price."

Lerner's tastefully decorated office is filled with personal and professional effects. Photographs of his children and late father, Al, are sprinkled among acquired art work reflecting one of his most passionate hobbies. A coffee table filled with orange Browns helmets dating to Cleveland's football infancy provide the visitor with a hard plastic trip down memory lane.

After sitting down, Lerner perched his feet on the table's edge, inches away from an updated white model similar to the one the Browns wore in 1948, and could break out for a future special occasion.

Seconds later, Lerner excitedly talked about the 2008 Browns. Coming off a 10-win season, they struck quickly in free agency by re-signing Anderson and running back Jamal Lewis, and adding defen-

sive linemen Shaun Rogers and Corey Williams as well as wide receiver Donte Stallworth. They were brought to Cleveland by Savage, who in just three years has completely rebuilt the Browns from laughingstocks to legitimate Super Bowl contenders.

Lerner will reward Savage with a long-term contract extension, which has been in the works for several weeks. Talks have gone so well that Lerner and Savage decided to put negotiations on hold to concentrate on free agency, college-player workouts and the draft.

Lerner said nothing is imminent but the deal will be finalized soon with Savage, who he says deserves much of the credit for bringing the Browns back.

"There are two characteristics that keep showing up with Phil," Lerner said. "One is his patience to let circumstances play out in order that he have as much information to make a decision as possible. The other is that he has enormous reach within the NFL and college ranks to get second opinions about his assumptions and suspicions about either a player or an approach to a situation."

"People take his call, people like to talk to him and people do like him in general throughout the NFL. He has brought those relationships and that book of business and made it a valuable resource to the Browns."

Savage is currently signed through the 2009 season. In January, the Browns gave Crennel a two-year extension through 2011, reward for his role in Cleveland's resurgence.

A year ago, Crennel's future with the Browns was uncertain at best. There was speculation he wouldn't last through 2007, and yet Crennel not only survived the head-coaching pressure cooker but flourished.

"It's a very difficult job," Lerner said. "It's a guy who does well in a confusing, chaotic kind of environment and can create calm and continue to inspire players and continue to show up with a plan and a safe pair of hands to execute the plan. A coach with good coordinators and a guy the players speak well of."



BERNIE AGUIAR | THE BG NEWS

**TOO STRONG:** Tara Breske goes up for a shot despite a Kent State defender. Breske finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds. She also dominated on defense with four steals and three blocks.

## FALCONS

From Page 9

start," Miller said.

For Breske, it was as simple as finding gaps in Kent's zone. Point guard Kate Achter also made life easy for Breske and the offense with her 11 assists.

"[It's just] cutting hard and Kate [Achter] found me in the open gap," Breske said. "She was great with that tonight. [We] just have to work hard and cut."

While the starting five did a pile of damage, it was BG's bench play that really put them over the top.

The bench combined for

**"[The bench] gave us contributions on both ends of the floor. We subbed in Bianca early in the second half to give us a lift in scoring from the wing position and she came through for us."**

Curt Miller | BG Coach

34 points and 19 rebounds, as well as a number of high-lights. Freshman forward Jen Uhl found the basket often in the second half, and finished with 15 points and six rebounds.

But it was fellow freshman forward Bianca Hooten that provided the most unexpected

spark. Hooten entered the game mid-way through the second half and calmly connected on three straight three-pointers. After the third shot fell, everyone on the Falcons' bench, including Hooten running up the floor, had smiles on their faces.

Miller thought it was important

## BRESKE'S BIG DAY

POINTS: 16

REBOUNDS: 11

STEALS: 3

BLOCKS: 4

that it came against the Flashes big frontline.

Anna Kowalska, Chenel Harris and Ellie Shields form a very formidable frontline but Breske was determined to not be denied on the night.

"I need to get tougher, I know I do," Shields said of playing against Breske the whole night. "It was sort of a battle between Tara Breske and me."

Breske did not even have to do any heavy lifting in the second half.

Given her tremendous performance in guiding the Falcons to such a cushy halftime margin she could sit back and enjoy the show.

to use his team's depth against a Kent team that was playing for the second straight day.

"[The bench] gave us contributions on both ends of the floor," Miller said. "We subbed in Bianca early in the second half to give us a lift in scoring from the wing position and she came through for us."

"That was a huge part of the game plan, to wear [Kent] down because they were playing on back-to-back nights," he added.

With last night's win, BG will move on to the tournament semifinals to face Ohio on Friday at 2:30 p.m.

"I'm very pleased that we survived and advanced," Miller said.

## YAO

From Page 9

recovery will keep the Olympic buzz growing strong," said Chris Renner, the head of Helios Partners China, a sports marketing consulting company based in Beijing. "The saga of 'will he or won't he' play in the Olympics will be drummed into the heads of a billion people."

Yao makes about \$25 million a year in endorsements through a carefully chosen set of sponsors that include Reebok, China Unicom, Coke, Visa and others, says Terry Rhoads, a former Nike executive who now runs Zou Marketing, a sports marketing company in Shanghai.

Some of those sponsors, like Reebok, may suffer as Yao misses the end of the NBA season, robbing the company of one of its best platforms to advertise. NBA games are televised on more than 50 Chinese networks, and Yao is that company's biggest basketball pitchman. He has two shoes, the Dragon ATR Elite II and the Hexride Yao Ming Olympic, that are being marketed for the Beijing Olympics, and to be sold almost exclusively in China.

The Rockets were on a 19-game winning streak as of yesterday, positioning themselves as one of many legitimate contenders in the NBA's Western Conference, even without Yao.

"If the Rockets make the finals and Yao's not there, that's 200 million people in China who would miss out on the chance to see him on basketball's biggest stage," said Marc Ganis, the president of Sportscorp Ltd., a Chicago-based sports consulting firm.

Nothing to sneeze at, of



ANDY WONG | AP PHOTO

**ON DISPLAY:** Houston Rockets' Yao Ming of China appears in the projector screen while Chinese basketball fans watch the NBA games between Houston Rockets and Milwaukee Bucks, at a restaurant in Beijing, China, in this Nov. 10, 2007 file photo.

course, but nothing compared to the numbers who will see him when the Chinese national team takes on the world at the Olympics.

Other sponsors, like Coke and McDonald's, have deals with Yao that are tied, in part, to the Olympics, and thus will see virtually no diminishing of the value of their investment. Reebok ads, meanwhile, won't be a part of Olympic programming.

"Yao Ming is a loss for sure, but it's not going to be a disaster for the campaigns" being run by Coke and McDonald's, Renner said. "They have a story to tell already by being Olympic

sponsor and Yao is just an add-on. But in my opinion, the timing couldn't be worse for someone like Reebok."

Representatives from the Adidas Group, which owns Reebok, did not immediately return e-mails left by The Associated Press.

When Yao announced he would miss the rest of the season, the most heartfelt moment of his news conference came when he said: "If I cannot play in the Olympics for my country this time, it will be the biggest loss in my career to right now."

Indeed, for China's biggest sports star to be unavailable for China's biggest sports event would be a grand disappointment that could affect many bottom lines — viewership and sponsorship among them.

Doctors, however, are optimistic he'll fully recover from surgery and be back before the Olympics in August. Yao shares that view.

"The surgery was very successful and I'll start physical recovery very soon," he wrote in a letter published in Chinese

newspapers. "I'll do whatever I can to overcome the difficulty and play for China in Olympics and be in my best form."

Renner said high-profile athletes like Yao or Michael Jordan often sign contracts that don't penalize them if they are injured or fail to appear in a specific event. This is all based on the assumption they are bigger than any single event.

"It depends on how savvy the sponsors have been in negotiating their agreements with Yao," Renner said. "Typically, there is some provision if an athlete is injured or doesn't participate in a particular event."

But even if a sponsor gets some money back because of this injury, Yao's long-term marketability isn't harmed, according to the experts.

He's only 27, probably not even halfway through his career. He's the face of a popular sport in the world's largest country. And even when he's not on the court, he's in the news. Yao's wedding grabbed attention of Britneyesque proportion in China last summer.

Renner compared Yao's situation to those of Wayne Rooney and David Beckham, soccer stars for the English national team. Each broke a bone in his foot just a few months before the World Cup — Rooney in 2006 and Beckham in 2002. Their recoveries were breathlessly chronicled, with constant speculation about whether they would make it to the World Cup.

But their injuries didn't scare advertisers. Five days after Rooney played in his first World Cup game, coming on as a substitute, Nike featured him in ads and a massive billboard with the red cross of the English flag painted on him.

With summer approaching, marketing reps see the same potential for Yao.

"He is so enormously marketable now, that I don't think this adversely affects him," Ganis said. "That's assuming he comes back from his injury and plays in the Olympics. Other than that, I don't think this does anything other than shows how important a person he is."

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## Public questions Spitzer's wife's support during prostitute scandal

By Jocelyn Noveck  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — When Silda Wall Spitzer stood beside her husband in ashen-faced misery the other day as the governor made his brief apology in the prostitution scandal, she uttered not a word. Yet she launched a thousand conversations.

"Why is she standing there?" many women wondered. "Should she be? Would I be?"

And for many, who've seen a long line of wronged political spouses do the same, from Hillary Rodham Clinton to Dina Matos McGreevey to Suzanne Craig, the immediate answer was a resounding, "Hell, no."

"I watched her and I thought, 'Again, the wife is standing there,'" said Jessica Thorpe, a 38-year-old mother of three in Larchmont, N.Y. "And I had a visceral reaction. I just don't get it. Why does it always have to be that way in politics? What will she get out of standing there?"

The blogosphere was buzzing, too, with the same questions. "Why do they show up?" asked blogger Amy Ephron on HuffingtonPost.com. She proposed her own fantasy: "I just want one of them — Hillary, Silda — to stand on the steps of the White House, the governor's mansion, and stamp their foot and say, 'And another thing, I'm keeping the house.'"

Yet many women also understood that Silda Spitzer was obviously in pain, and in the unforgiving glare of the public spotlight. So while Donna Webster, a product development executive in Boston, wished the New York governor had been forced to face the music alone, she also empathized with his wife's choice, which she assumed was for the sake of her three daughters.

**"She was in crisis mode. She was like a mother bear protecting her cubs. When crisis hits, you do what you think you need to for your family."**

Donna Webster | Product Development Executive

"I've been thinking about this constantly. I cringed when I saw her next to him," said Webster, 59. "I think he should have taken it like a man — without her."

But, she added, "She was in crisis mode. She was like a mother bear protecting her cubs. When crisis hits, you do what you think you need to for your family. Later, you can step back and think about protecting yourself."

Amid the din, one of the most poignant voices defending Silda Spitzer was Matos McGreevey, who stood next to her husband, New Jersey Gov. Jim McGreevey, in 2004 as he told the world he was gay, admitted an affair with a male aide and resigned.

"It's regretful that people are mocking her," Matos McGreevey said on CNN Monday night. "She's a private person who has a family that is experiencing excruciating pain right now."

She referred to others who'd also stood by their spouses at moments of deep humiliation — Clinton, during the Monica Lewinsky scandal, and Suzanne Craig, the wife of Idaho Sen. Larry Craig, who was accused of soliciting sex in an airport bathroom.

"We all do it for personal reasons," she said. "I did it because he was my husband. I had always supported him. I loved him. I had a daughter ... I wanted her to know I was there for her father."

One therapist who deals with couples in crisis says most

wronged women do want to at least try to work things out. "Your lives are intertwined, emotionally, financially and physically," said Gail Saltz, who practices in New York City. "And you share children. It's very complicated for any woman who finds her husband has betrayed her."

And the fact that the alleged betrayal was with a prostitute is a double-edged sword, says Saltz. On the one hand, "this isn't a woman that he fell in love with. On the other, many women would find the prostitution part particularly humiliating."

Joanna Coles, editor in chief of the women's magazine Marie Claire, feels that at least for the moment, Silda Spitzer had no choice but to stand publicly by her husband, for whom she gave up an active career as a corporate lawyer.

"People are very quick to judge her, but that's the deal that you make when one of you decides to give up your career so that the other can go all out for his," said Coles. "I think it would have been odd if she wasn't there. It's the pact that they made. She chose to be the wife of a governor, and she's done it very conscientiously, and very well."

Ashley Shapiro, a 24-year-old event planner in Miami, says her friends are split on the issue of whether Silda Spitzer and other wronged political spouses have been right to stand by their men. As for her, she thinks it's the only human thing to do.

## Woman forgotten in county holding cell

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — A woman being held as an illegal immigrant spent four days forgotten in an isolated holding cell at a courthouse with no food, water, or toilet, authorities and the woman said.

Adriana Torres-Flores, 38, appeared in court Thursday and pleaded not guilty to a charge of selling pirated CDs, but a judge ordered her held because she is in the country illegally, Sheriff Tim Helder said.

Bailiff Jarrod Hankins put her in the cell to await transport to jail, and she was forgotten. Because of heavy snow, few staff members were in the courthouse to hear her cries and pounding later Thursday or on Friday and through the weekend.

Torres-Flores wasn't found until Monday morning when Hankins opened the door. She was treated at a hospital and allowed to go home.

The sheriff said Hankins, a

**"She was feeling like she was going to die."**

Adriana Torres-Flores | Daughter

bailiff for two months, simply forgot about Torres-Flores.

"He's a broken man right now," Helder said.

Hankins was placed on administrative leave with pay Monday pending an investigation. His mother said Monday he was too devastated to comment.

The cell had two benches, a metal table and a light that Torres-Flores could not turn off. She slept using a shoe to cushion her head, she told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, with 14-year-old daughter Adriana acting as an interpreter.

"She was feeling like she was going to die," Adriana said.

Torres-Flores had not eaten Thursday before going to court. She had a jacket but still was cold in the cell.

"She had to use the bathroom on the floor," her daughter said. "It's a horrible, horrible situation," said her attorney, Nathan Lewis.

County Judge Jerry Hunton, the county administrator, the judge who ordered her held, Circuit Judge William Storey and the sheriff issued a statement saying "immediate measures have been taken to ensure this does not happen again."

Hunton said he might install a video camera in the holding cell and an exterior light that indicates when someone is inside. "That's probably the best thing we can do to make sure it doesn't happen to anyone else," he said.

Torres-Flores' trial is set for April 1, and she faces deportation by federal immigration authorities.

## Minister pleads guilty to assaulting wife

By Errin Haines  
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The husband of televangelist Juanita Bynum pleaded guilty yesterday to assaulting her, was sentenced to three years' probation and then turned to her and apologized.

Thomas W. Weeks III, a minister known to his followers as Bishop Weeks, turned after his sentencing to address Bynum, who sat in the second row of the Fulton County courtroom gallery.

"I want to apologize to my wife for all she's had to go through," he said.

Bynum nodded in response and quietly thanked him. The two later walked out of the

**"I want to apologize to my wife for all she's had to go through."**

Thomas W. Weeks III | Minister

courthouse together.

"They are in communication and working on their relationship and the status of their marriage," said Ed Garland, Weeks' attorney in the criminal case.

Prosecutors alleged that Weeks beat Bynum — a prominent televangelist whose message of women's empowerment resonated with thousands of followers — in the parking lot of an Atlanta hotel in August.

According to a police report, Bynum told officers that Weeks "choked her, pushed her down, kicked and stomped her ... until a bellman pulled him off of her."

Weeks initially pleaded not guilty to charges of aggravated assault and making terroristic threats. He pleaded guilty yesterday to a single count of aggravated assault.

Weeks must undergo violence and anger counseling and complete 200 hours of community service that cannot be church-related. He had been barred previously from communicating with Bynum, but that restriction has been lifted. His record will be cleared if he completes the terms of his sentence.



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# IT PAYS





**REFLECTION TIME:** A woman visits the monument to the victims of the Madrid 2004 terror bombings in Atocha train station, Madrid. Yesterday marked the Islamic terror bombings that killed 191 people at Madrid train stations four years ago.

## Four years later, victims of Madrid train bombings still being remembered

By Daniel Woolls  
The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Aurora Baeza Ramirez reached a trembling hand into her purse and pulled out an old newspaper clipping with a photo of her son, one of 191 people killed in the Madrid train bombings four years ago yesterday.

"Look. Look at my son, look how handsome he was," she said, holding the paper as if it were something sacred, then broke down sobbing.

Baeza Ramirez pointed proudly to a small pendant around her neck, also with a photo of her son Jose Maria — an earnest-looking man with

dark, closely cropped hair, his life cut short at age 39. "My other children made it for me to wear," she said.

Her outpouring of grief came after a memorial ceremony at which King Juan Carlos laid a laurel wreath at a towering glass memorial to the victims of the terror attack.

He and Queen Sofia, other dignitaries and a crowd of several thousand observed two minutes of silence at the stroke of noon to remember those killed and the more than 1,800 wounded four years ago.

A choir dressed in black sang a Gregorian chant-like piece meant as a tribute to peace. There were no speeches.

The ceremony took place outside Atocha station, the

destination of each of four commuter trains that were ripped apart by backpack bombs on March 11, 2004.

Like many commuters that day, Baeza Ramirez's son was on his way to work — in his case as a doorman in Madrid.

"They took away my son," she said. "He never bothered anybody."

The king and queen were flanked by guards with 18th-century uniforms and plumed helmets as they stepped up to the monument: a three-story tower of opaque bricks. Inside, a transparent roof bears messages of condolence that Spaniards and others wrote on computers set up at Atocha after the bombings.

"Tomorrow I will leave home

just like you did, in order to continue your journey," one inscription reads.

Other memorials were held elsewhere in and around Madrid yesterday. The ceremonies seem to draw less attention as the years go by, paling in comparison to how Spain came to a standstill on the first anniversary. Then, traffic stopped, workers put down their tools and people poured out of office buildings to observe five minutes of silence.

This time the run-up to the anniversary was overshadowed by an election that produced a win for Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, the Socialist first elected three days after the train bombings.

## Death toll beginning to rise again in Iraq

By Bradley Brooks  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Violence killed at least 42 people yesterday, including 16 bus passengers caught in a roadside bombing in southern Iraq, after the deadliest day for U.S. troops in precisely six months.

The U.S. military announced that three American soldiers were killed in a roadside bombing north of Baghdad on Monday, bringing to eight the number of troops who died that day. The last time so many U.S. military personnel were killed in Iraq was Sept. 10, when 10 died.

Bloodshed has increased recently, despite what the military said has been a 60 percent drop in attacks across Iraq since June. Last Thursday, two massive bombs killed 68 people in Baghdad's Karradah neighborhood. On March 3, two car bombings killed 24 people in the capital.

According to an Associated Press count, at the height of unrest from November 2006 to August 2007, on average approximately 65 Iraqis died each day as a result of violence. As conditions improved, the daily death toll steadily declined. It reached its lowest point in more than two years on January 2008, when on average 20 Iraqis died each day.

Those numbers have since jumped. In February, approximately 26 Iraqis died each day as a result of violence, and so far in March, that number is up to 39 daily. These figures reflect the months in which people were found, and not necessarily — in the case of mass graves — the months in which they were killed.

Military spokesman Rear Adm. Gregory Smith said Sunday that recent violence should not be taken as evidence of "an increase or a trend of an increase."

"I think we need to continue to look at historically what has happened over the last year to really put in perspective a one-week or two-weeks' worth of activity inside Baghdad," Smith said.

But Smith, in what has become a military mantra of caution, also noted that "on any given day, al-Qaida and other extremist groups are still very much disposed toward handing out violence indiscriminately to achieve whatever means and ends they hope to achieve with those attacks."

While al-Qaida in Iraq is Sunni, Shiite extremists with alleged ties to Iran are also believed to have carried out attacks.

In an interview with CNN yesterday, Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, said he was in favor of substantive discussions with Iran about what the U.S. claims is Tehran's continued funding and training of

**"What we would like to do with Iran of course is sit down across the table and let's discuss."**

David Petraeus | U.S. General

extremists in Iraq.

Petraeus said he did not meet with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad during his visit to Iraq last week because he thought it would have been a "relatively meaningless encounter."

But he added: "What we would like to do with Iran of course is sit down across the table and let's discuss. You know, the Iranians have pledged at the very highest levels to stop arming, training, funding and equipping and directing the special groups and these other militia extremist elements ... and yet it appears very clear that Iran does continue."

The roadside bombing that killed the three U.S. soldiers and an interpreter Monday took place in Diyala, a violent province where al-Qaida in Iraq has been active. Another soldier was wounded.

The five other U.S. soldiers were killed while on foot patrol in central Baghdad. A suicide bomber approached them and detonated his explosives vest. Three American troops and an Iraqi interpreter were wounded. Iraqi police said two civilians also were killed in the attack.

Yesterday's attack on the traveling from Najaf to Basra killed 16 civilians and wounded 22, a policeman said.

Gunmen also sprayed another bus with machine-gun fire shortly after it hit a roadside bomb in eastern Baghdad. One person was killed and four others were wounded, police said. The bomb was apparently targeting a nearby police patrol.

In Duluyiah, 45 miles north of Baghdad, police said a suicide bomber blew up his truck at a checkpoint near the headquarters of the local Awakening Council, killing five people. Awakening Councils are made up of mostly Sunni fighters who have accepted U.S. backing to switch allegiances and fight al-Qaida in Iraq.

And in Kut, 100 miles southeast of Baghdad, clashes with Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia left 12 dead and 14 injured. Thirty people were arrested. Southern Iraq often sees clashes between rival Shiite groups battling for power.

In Mosul, an unknown number of gunmen attacked a police checkpoint in Mosul, killing four policemen and injuring one civilian. Four of the attacking gunmen also were killed in the firefight, according to a Ninevah police officer who spoke on condition of anonymity.

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# Official promises clean air in time for Beijing Olympics

By Tini Tran  
The Associated Press

BEIJING — Beijing will meet its pledge to have clean air for the Summer Olympics, an environmental official said yesterday, downplaying worries the city's notorious smog will overshadow the Games.

State Environmental Protection Administration Vice Minister Zhang Lijun said measures to cut pollution in Beijing and surrounding areas are being intensified to ensure the city's air is up to the required standards.

Zhang's claim came a day after world marathon record holder Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia said he would almost certainly skip the long-distance running event in Beijing because of the city's poor air quality.

Considered the world's best distance runner, the 34-year-old Gebrselassie — who has asthma — fears his health could be damaged by running through the streets of the Chinese capital. He said he would make a final decision in May.

China's double-digit economic growth has come with a surge in heavily polluting industries such as manufacturing and energy. The country is home to 16 of the world's 20 most heavily polluted cities.

"After we have implemented all the measures, there is no problem for Beijing to meet the standards. We can deliver on our commitment," Zhang said at a news conference held on the sidelines of the annual session of the National People's Congress, the country's legislature.

The measures include requiring Beijing and Tianjin cities and Hebei province to temporarily suspend emissions from some of their most heavily polluting plants, which include cement,

"...There is no problem for Beijing to meet the standards."

Zhang Lijun | State EPA vice minister

steel and coke factories.

The provinces of Shanxi and Shandong, along with the huge Inner Mongolia region, will also be required to restrict their coal-fired emissions, Zhang said.

Zhang said he expects that "by June, we will complete all tasks necessary" to ensure the city will have the required clear air.

To satisfy commitments made in 2001 in its Olympic bid, Beijing will be required to show that it meets international standards on four major pollutants — sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, inhalable particles and chemical oxygen demand, a measure of water pollution.

Regular monitoring of air quality has shown the city has already met the standard for three of the four measures. Only inhalable particles remains below the acceptable level, Zhang said.

Concerns about the capital's pollution level have dominated preparations by international athletes for the games. Several countries have decided to station their athletes outside China — in some cases in Japan or Korea — for training.

Darryl Seibel, a spokesman for the United States Olympics Committee, said none of the 600 U.S. athletes competing in the Games is planning to withdraw because of the air quality. However, some U.S. athletes have chosen to do their training outside of China — for instance, the powerful U.S. swim team

# Lahore bombings fuel pressure for Pakistan to rethink counter-terror strategy

By Asif Shahzad  
The Associated Press

LAHORE, Pakistan — The spread of terrorism across Pakistan yesterday from its unruly tribal regions to the cultural capital of Lahore has added to pressure to rethink its U.S.-allied president's approach to countering al-Qaida and the Taliban as a new government prepares to take office.

After two deadly suicide bombings in this normally peaceful eastern city, pressure grew for more dialogue with militants and less punitive military action, which President Pervez Musharraf's opponents say has only fueled the violence.

At least 24 people were killed and more than 200 wounded yesterday when massive explosions ripped through a police headquarters and a business located near a house belonging to the widower of slain opposition leader Benazir Bhutto.

Musharraf quickly condemned the "savage" bombings and said in a statement the government would continue to fight terrorism "with full force." Authorities have blamed Taliban and al-Qaida militants for a recent surge of bombings.

But some enraged Lahore residents blamed the Pakistani president, gathering in small groups yesterday on the city's main Mall Road, chanting "Musharraf is a dog, Musharraf is a pimp."

The winners of last month's elections accused the former army strongman of destabilizing the country with military operations against militants near the Afghan border and even suggested that rogue forces were trying to undermine Pakistan's return to democracy.

"He has carried out indiscriminate operations in the tribal areas that have opened up new fault lines in Pakistani society," said Ahsan Iqbal, a spokesman for the party set to partner with Bhutto's in the new government. "Unless he resigns, there will always be a cause for all these groups to carry on these activities."

Yesterday's blasts happened about 15 minutes apart in



AP PHOTO

**TURMOIL:** An unidentified man evacuates a child from the site of a suicide bombing at the office of the Federal Investigation Agency yesterday in Lahore, Pakistan. Massive suicide bombs ripped through the seven-story police headquarters and a house.

different districts of Lahore. The first tore the facade from the seven-story Federal Investigation Agency building as staff were beginning their work day.

The explosives-packed vehicle managed to penetrate security, drive into a parking lot and detonate close to the building — which houses part of the federal police's anti-terrorism unit — devastating offices on the lower floors and blowing out the walls around a stairwell, city police chief Malik Mohammed Iqbal said.

Grainy footage from a surveillance camera shown on the private Aaj television channel showed the small truck running over a guard and barreling through the gate seconds before the blast.

While al-Qaida-linked mil-

itants in Iraq have regularly used vehicles to launch massive attacks on buildings, such damage has rarely been inflicted on a government building in Pakistan.

Officials said 21 people were killed, including 16 police, and more than 200 people were wounded. Doctors at Lahore hospitals said the dead included a 3-year-old girl, while 32 girls were injured by flying debris at a nearby Roman Catholic elementary school.

The second blast all but flattened the office of an advertising agency in the affluent Model Town neighborhood about 15 miles away. Police said two children and the wife of the house's gardener were killed.

Officials declined to speculate about whether the Lahore residence of Bhutto's widower, Asif Ali Zardari, located less than 50 yards away, was the intended target. Zardari, who succeeded Bhutto at the helm of her party, was in the capital, Islamabad, at the time.

Interior Ministry spokesman Javed Iqbal Cheema said it was possible that "terrorists are trying to put maximum pressure on the government that is in the making" to soften their resolve against them.

Pakistan faces an enemy that is "nameless, faceless and there are people who are working in small groups," he said. He declined to identify any group suspected in yesterday's attack.

Yesterday's violence was the first major act of terrorism since former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party announced over the weekend they would form a coalition government aimed at reducing Musharraf's powers.

Farhatullah Babar, a spokesman for Bhutto's party, agreed the blast seemed to be a message to Zardari and the party "to deter them from pursuing its democratic struggle."

But Babar echoed Bhutto's oft-repeated suspicion that Islamist sympathizers embedded in Pakistan's powerful military-led establishment and intelligence agencies were involved.

Sunday's coalition pact ended talk that her party would snub Sharif, its traditional rival, and tie up with the rump of Musharraf's ruling party, which suffered a heavy defeat in the Feb. 18 parliamentary vote.

In Washington, the State Department signaled a willingness to work closely with whatever new government emerges.

"We have talked to all the parties, telling them all, 'We will work with whoever emerges as the leadership,'" said assistant secretary of state Richard Boucher. But he also made plain the administration's goal was "to continue support to counter terrorism."

Until recently, Lahore — a metropolis of 7 million people that boasts Pakistan's grandest monuments and most vibrant intellectual scene — had been spared the suicide attacks that have struck all other major cities in the past year.

But now it has suffered three attacks within two months. On Jan. 10, a militant walked into a crowd of police guarding a courthouse and blew himself up, killing 24. A double suicide attack in Lahore killed four people at a navy training college last week.

"I have seen the pictures on television and this is just like in Iraq. It is very frightening. It is terrible," said Nasir Mahmood, a 52-year-old hawking leather wallets in a city market.

After yesterday's blasts, Australia announced it was postponing its cricket tour to Pakistan due to security concerns.

Pakistan's new parliament is to hold its first session Monday, and Sharif's spokesman said lawmakers would quickly begin the task of drawing up a new policy on countering extremism.

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# Hulu.com to provide legal online movies and TV episodes

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hulu.com, a joint venture between News Corp. and NBC Universal, plans to open its online library of ad-supported TV shows and movies to the public today, the company announced.

Users of the service will be able to view more than 250 full-length episodes of shows such as "The Simpsons" and "The Office," as well as some 100 movies, including "The Big Lebowski" and "Ice Age."

Short clips from films and TV shows such as "Napoleon Dynamite" and "Saturday Night Live" are also available through the service, which is accessible at Hulu.com, as well as on Time Warner Inc.'s AOL site, Yahoo Inc. and other popular Web portals.

The public debut of Hulu,

which has been available to a test group by invitation since October, comes as studios seek ways to make money providing ad-supported video online.

The entertainment companies behind the service have been feuding with popular online video sites such as Google Inc.'s YouTube, where unauthorized clips from shows often appear. Viacom Inc., which owns MTV and Comedy Central, is suing Google for copyright infringement.

The Hulu.com programming comes from 50 TV networks, movie studios and Web-based producers of content. Viewers of some movies and TV shows are given a choice of advertisements to watch.

NBC Universal is a unit of General Electric Co.



**BELOVED EPISODES:** Hulu.com, a joint venture between News Corp. and NBC Universal will offer movies and TV shows including "The Simpsons" to the public.

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## Google gains momentum by acquiring online ad source DoubleClick

By Michael Liedtke  
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO—Google Inc.'s long-anticipated acquisition of online ad service DoubleClick Inc. is expected to turn the Internet search leader into an even more powerful marketing vehicle that's fueled by better insights about consumers.

The \$3.1 billion deal, completed yesterday after nearly a year of regulatory wrangling, also may intensify the pressure on Microsoft Corp. and Yahoo Inc. to resolve their stormy courtship so they don't risk further distractions while Google tries to sprint further ahead in the race for Internet advertising.

Google took control of DoubleClick a few hours after Europe's antitrust regulators removed the final stumbling block by approving a deal that was first announced 11 months ago.

U.S. regulators cleared the transaction in December, casting aside objections from Microsoft and other companies that argued DoubleClick would give Google too much control over online advertising and potentially sensitive information about consumer behavior on the Internet.

Besides opening up new opportunities, Google's takeover of DoubleClick will create more challenges for a management team already grappling with concerns about how the slowing U.S. economy will affect the company's earnings growth this year.

Google Chairman Eric Schmidt acknowledged in a statement that the biggest acquisition in the company's 9-year history probably will trigger an unspecified number of layoffs after years of relentless hiring. The looming job cuts will be concentrated in the United States, although Schmidt said offices in other countries could be affected.

New York-based DoubleClick has 1,500 employees with offices in France, England, Germany, Ireland, Spain, Australia and Spain. Mountain View-based Google employs nearly 17,000 workers, up from 1,600 just four years ago.

Google's recently slumping shares soared with the rest of the stock market yesterday, gaining \$26.22, or 6.3 percent, to \$439.84. The company's stock price remains down by 36 percent so far this year.

DoubleClick is expected to broaden Google's already extensive reach in the \$40 billion Internet advertising market.

Google has been the market's most dominant player so far, generating more than \$16 billion in revenue last year. Most of the money flowed in from short, written ads that Google places alongside search results and other Web content.

DoubleClick specializes in placing more dynamic, multimedia ads, a form of market-

**"Google is going to be like a runaway locomotive coming full steam ahead."**

Russ Mann | Covario, Chief Executive

ing that is expected to become more important in the next few years as big companies spend more money promoting their brands online.

With somewhere between \$300 million and \$400 million in annual revenue, DoubleClick isn't expected to have a significant impact on Google's profit this year.

But the addition is bound to give Google an important advantage over its rivals, said Russ Mann, chief executive of Covario, which helps manage and analyze online advertising campaigns.

"Google is going to be like a runaway locomotive coming full steam ahead now," Mann said.

Standard & Poor's equity analyst Scott Kessler isn't convinced the deal will pay off for Google as quickly as some might think, largely because the company doesn't have a track record of mining big profits from its past acquisitions. For instance, Google paid \$1.76 billion for online video leader YouTube in November 2006, but the site still isn't producing significant profits.

"It's definitely a big deal, but whether they can execute on the potential remains to be seen," Kessler said.

But just the prospect of Google growing even stronger now that DoubleClick is in its fold could be enough to prompt Microsoft to step up its pursuit of Yahoo or withdraw its offer to spend the money on other expansion opportunities.

"Everyone knew the [DoubleClick] deal was coming, but [the consummation] probably contributes a degree of urgency because now it is real," Kessler said.

Microsoft has offered to buy Yahoo for more than \$40 billion, but the unsolicited bid has been at a standstill for the past month because the two sides can't agree on a price.

Both Microsoft and Yahoo had opposed Google's acquisition of DoubleClick, arguing that it could stifle competition in the online advertising market and potentially compromise consumer privacy.

Microsoft declined to comment yesterday. Yahoo didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Google's pursuit of DoubleClick had a domino effect almost as soon as the two companies announced their marriage plans last April. Within a few months, Microsoft, Yahoo and Time Warner Inc.'s AOL had spent more than \$7 billion snapping up other online ad networks and tools to mount a counterattack.

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